JUMP COMICS

巻ノ二十八

ナルトの帰郷!!

NARUTO

-ナルト-

岸本斉史

COLORED MANGA.COM

岸本斉史

Uh... Oh! Right! I wanted to let you all know that with this volume begins Part Two, so I look forward to your patronage. To those who have not yet read Part One, please read from volume 1. Then again, feel free to read it from the middle as well... (laughs).

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2005

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** (Mechanism). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.

JUMP COMICS

NARUTO

ナルトの帰郷(きょう)!!

巻ノ二十八

岸本斉史(きしもとまさし)

COLORED MANGA.COM

主な登場人物

春野サクラ

うずまき ナルト

綱手

自来也

はたけ カカシ

うちは サスケ

COLORED MANGA.COM

EBIZO

GRANNY CHIYO

GAARA

SASORI

DEIDARA

KANKURO

ColoredManga.com

A new scanlation team has undertaken the Naruto Digital Colored Comics Project!

please join the Naruto Colored Manga discord server IF YOU WANT TO HELP:

https://discord.gg/ZTmzect

there's no need to volunteer, we also appreciate people who join for moral support, because that's encouragement for us to know that our readers exist, and continue working until chapter 700!

COLORED MANGA.COM

ナンバー245：ナルトの帰郷(ききょう)!!

245: THE HOMECOMING!!

IT'S BEEN MORE THAN TWO YEARS....

SO IT HAS...

*KRUNCH

*TMP

*TMP

そば所

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第五回 "キャラクター"&

第二回 "術"人気投票発表!!

245：ナルトの帰郷!!

8位／春野サクラ 2394票

11位／テマリ 1037票

6位／うちはイタチ 2997票

10位／我愛羅 1383票

9位／日向ヒナタ 1598票

5位／奈良シカマル 3003票

3位／はたけカカシ 5430票

7位／日向ネジ 2497票

2位／うずまきナルト 5614票

4位／うみのイルカ 4128票

1位／うちはサスケ 6647票

●以降のキャラ人気投票結果発表●

12位／犬塚キバ 788票
13位／ロック・リー 722票
14位／山中いの 717票
15位／白 706票
16位／綱手 595票
17位／マイト・ガイ 559票
18位／君麻呂 478票
19位／薬師カブト 473票
20位／月光ハヤテ 434票
21位／油女シノ 377票
22位／四代目火影 345票
23位／自来也 317票
24位／テンテン 280票
25位／多由也 225票
26位／猿飛アスマ 221票
27位／大蛇丸 211票
28位／半柿鬼鮫 202票
29位／シズネ 163票
30位／カンクロウ 117票

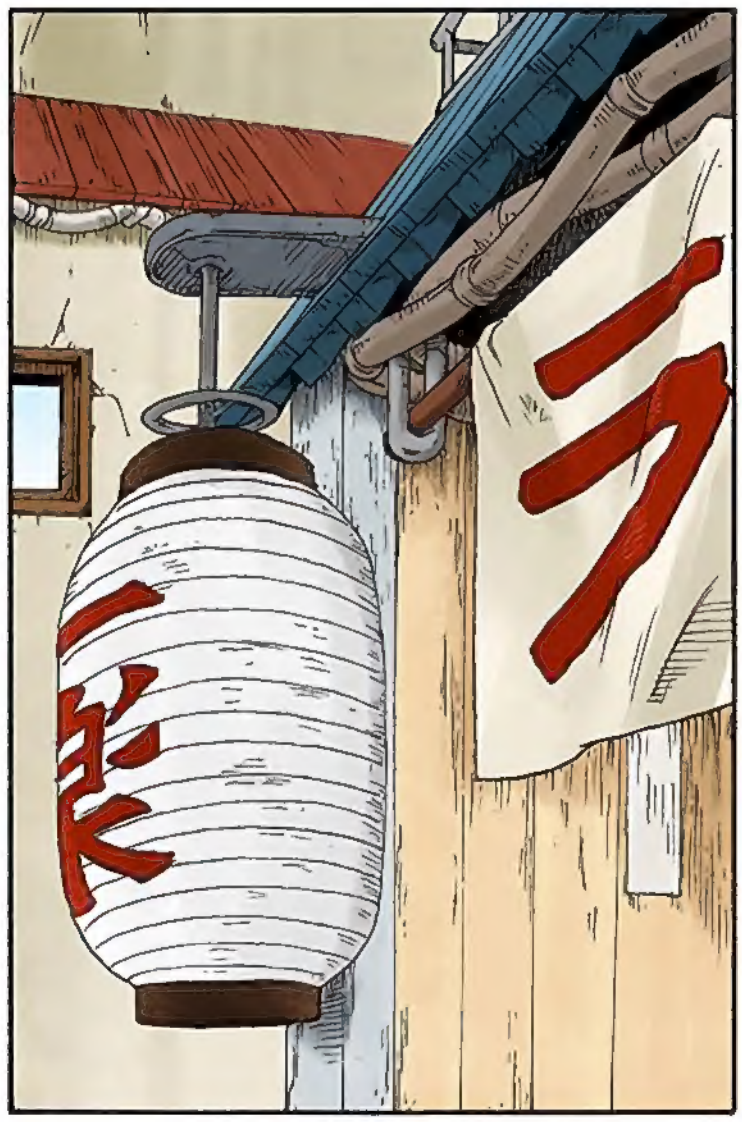
●"術"人気投票発表●

1位／螺旋丸 6354票
2位／千鳥 5665票
3位／雷切 5186票
4位／月読 3447票
5位／八卦六十四掌 1624票
6位／口寄せの術 1611票
7位／影真似の術 1575票
8位／写輪眼 1531票
9位／白眼 1197票
10位／万華鏡写輪眼 670票
11位／影縛りの術 653票
12位／おいろけの術 617票
13位／獅子連弾 616票
14位／飛ばせ・斬り斬り舞 576票
15位／心転身の術 535票
16位／裏蓮華 513票
17位／サクラ吹雪の術※ 511票
18位／ハーレムの術 509票
19位／影分身の術 499票
20位／千年殺し 490票

※は2004年劇場版オリジナルのサクラの術です。

NARUTO-ANIME-MANGA.COM

NARUTO
-ナルト-



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SPRONG

TAP

THUD

OOF

SPRO-ING

HEH...

ALWAYS RAMBUNC-TIOUS...

HEY!

*TAP

.....

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HELLLOOO KONOHA!!
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL!!

YEAH!!

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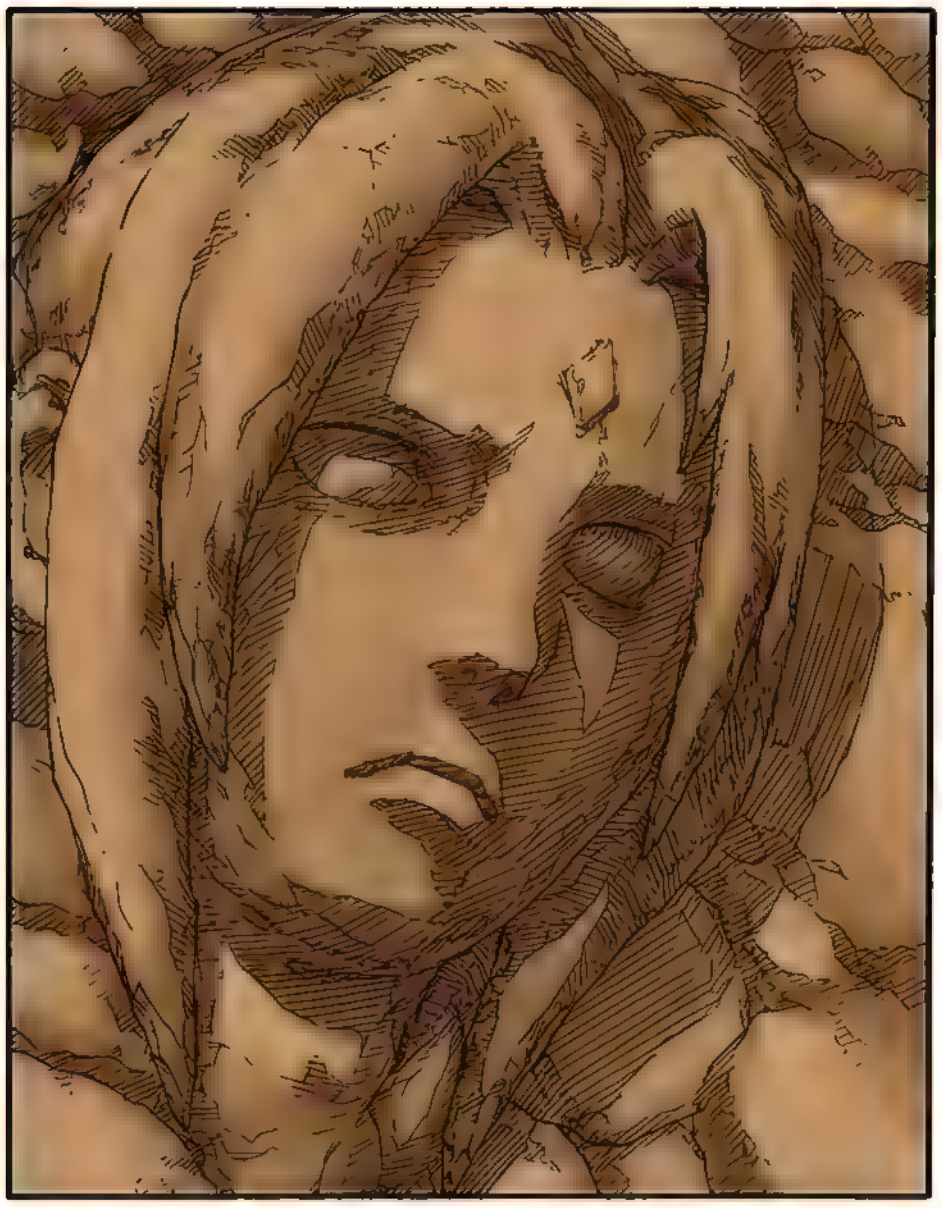

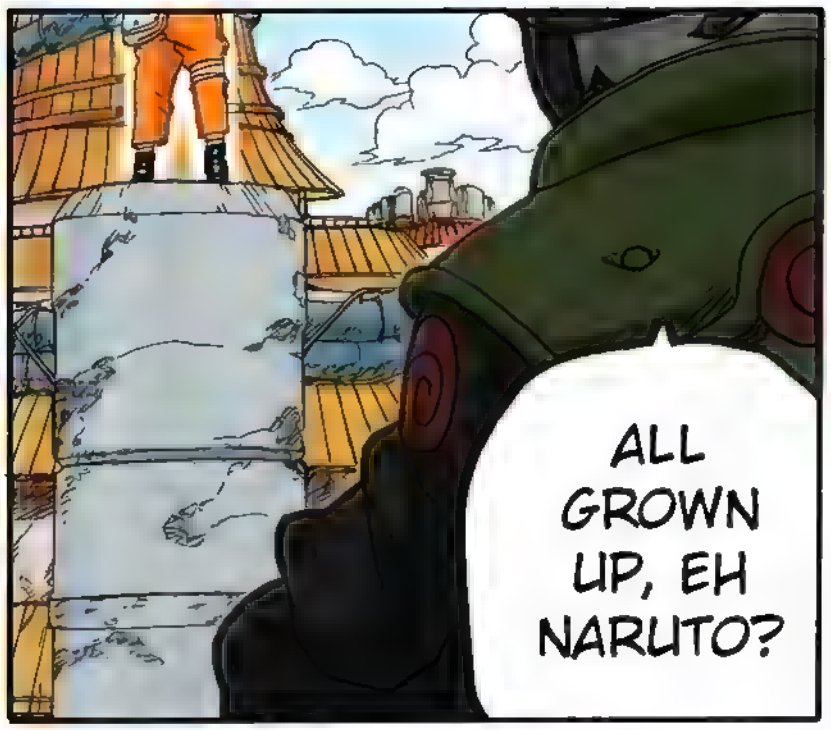

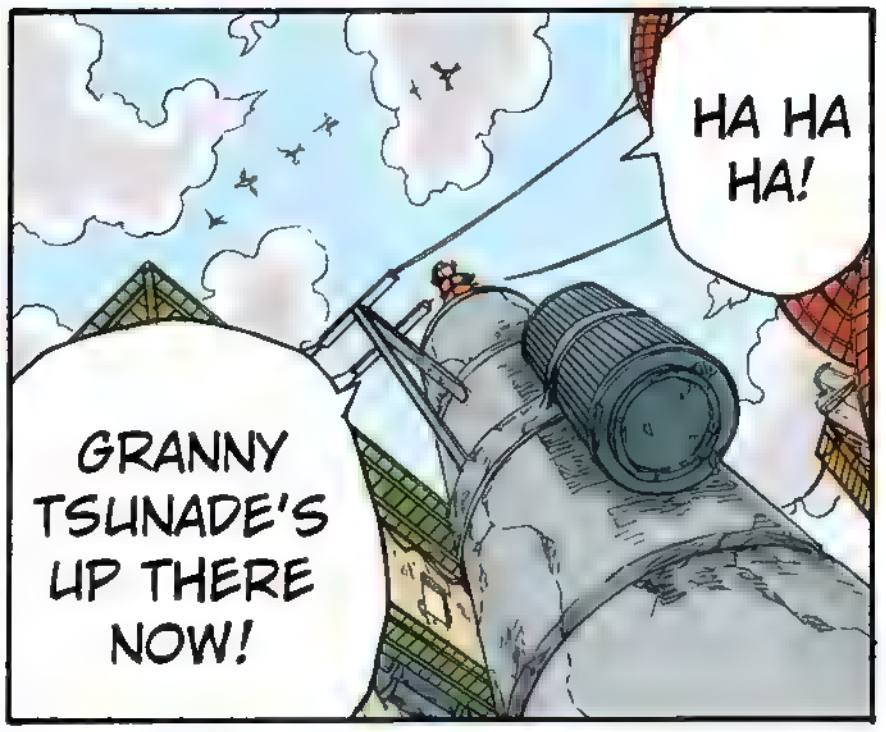

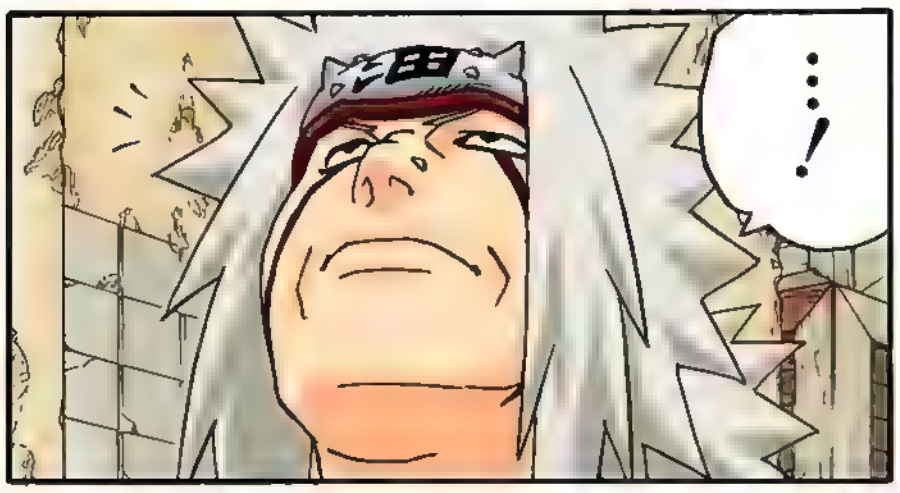

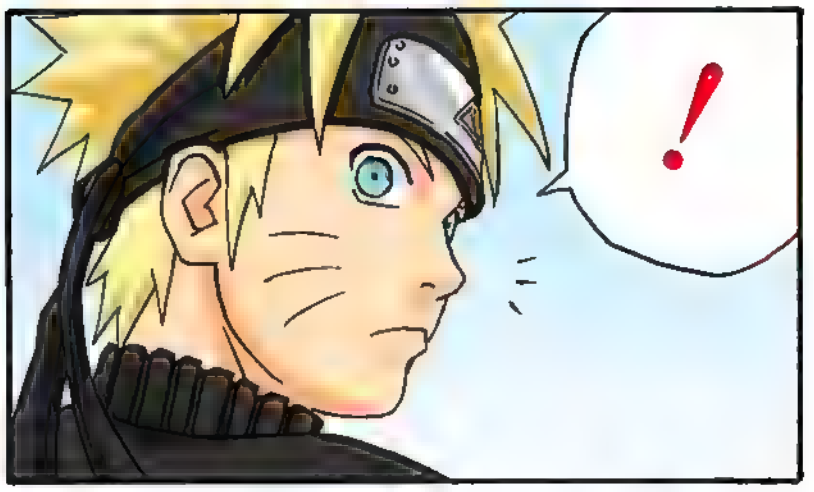

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YO!

OH YEAH, I ALMOST FORGOT..!

OOF!

...SENSEI, YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL!

SPROING

KAKASHI-SENSEI!!

COLORED MANGA.COM

SAKURA
...

I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU!

ゴソゴソ

?

*SHLOOF

YES, MILADY?

カシ
カシ

*KLAK *KLAK

NARUTO... YOU...

WHAT?! NARUTO?!

...NARUTO HAS RE-TURNED!

THAT BRAT...

COLORED MANGA.COM

イチャイチャタクティクス

PLUS THAT IS AN ULTRA RARE ADVANCE COPY...

FOOL... IT'S 'CUZ YOU'RE STILL A KID.

THE FIRST IN THREE YEARS! FIGURED YOU'D LIKE IT, EVEN THOUGH IT'S PROBABLY TOTALLY BORING...

IT'S THE LATEST IN THE *MAKE-OUT* SERIES, Y'KNOW.

CHIRP

CHIRP

COLORED MANGA.COM

SHOW OF HANDS...

WHO WANTS ICHIRAKU RAMEN?!

タダッ

*TROT

AS PROMISED, KAKASHI...

...HE'S ALL YOURS.

WHOA

!!

...SO I'M GOING BACK TO GATHERING INTELLI-GENCE.

I SUSPECT THE AKATSUKI WILL MAKE THEIR NEXT MOVE SOON...

.....

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S... SAKURA?

HUH? NARUTO?!

!!

CHIRP

CHIRP

!

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?

SMOOTH, KID...COULD YOU BE ANY MORE OBLIVIOUS?

GRIN

IF YOU SAY SO! YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL!

ALMOST DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU. WE'VE BOTH REALLY GROWN, HUH?

WOW...

HUH...?

WELL, MAYBE YOU'RE JUST TALLER THAN I REMEMBER...

!

NARUTO, BIG BRO! CHECK IT OUT!

...TALLER... AND... WELL...

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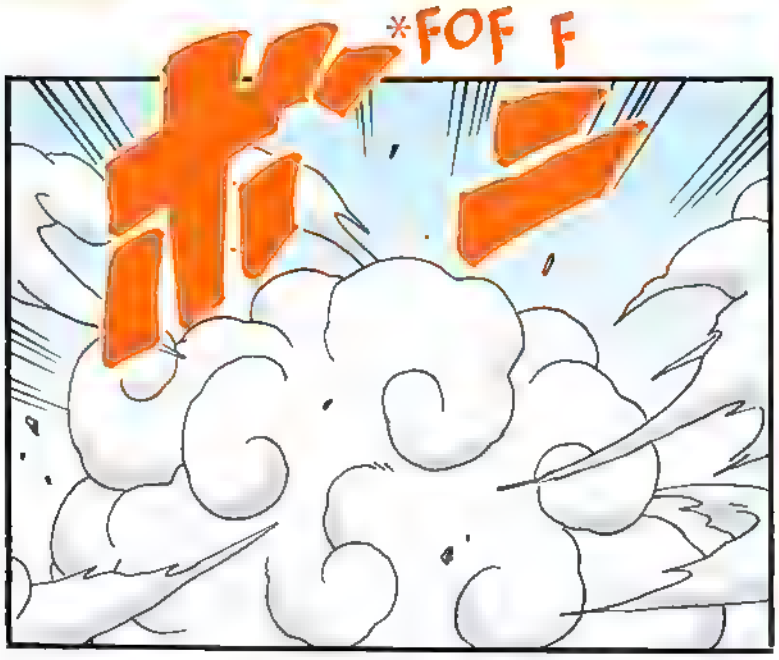

*FO *OF

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.....

YOU GOTTA WORK ON OTHER JUTSU TOO, Y'KNOW.

KONOHAMARU, I'M NOT A KID ANYMORE.

!

WONDER WHAT ELSE IS UP HIS SLEEVE? SOME INCREDIBLE NEW JUTSU...?

...SO MUCH MORE *MATURE*? WHO IS THIS GUY AND WHAT HAS HE DONE WITH NARUTO?

NEW PERVY NINJUTSU ...?

NOW WATCH THIS! MY NEW PERVY NINJUTSU INVENTION!! HERE IT GOES!!

THAT JUTSU IS TOTALLY BORING, KONOHAMARU!

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BAKOOM

...ARE YOU KID-DING ME !!!

*FWHOOSH

HUH ?

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WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER FOR TWO YEARS AND YOU PULL A STUNT LIKE THAT?

*YANK

WHAT IS YOUR PROBLEM?!

YOU'RE SCARING KONOHA-MARU...

NOW, NOW, SAKURA, CALM DOWN...

AND I WAS THINKING YOU WERE SO GROWN UP!

DO YOU

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW THAT MAKES ME FEEL?! HUH?!

SHOOKA SHOOKA

...YOU'VE RAISED YOUR OWN TSUNADE JUNIOR, TOO..!

油

THAT HOT QUICK TEMPER AND MONSTER STRENGTH...

...JIRAIYA... DON'T TELL ME NARUTO...IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE LIKE YOU...?

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CLOMP

KAKASHI.

...ALL RIGHT!

ENOUGH WITH THE EMOTIONAL REUNION.

.....!

WOW, IT SURE HAS BEEN A WHILE.

FELLOW KONOHA SHINOBI.

NOT AS SENSEI AND STUDENTS. BUT AS EQUALS.

...ARE GOING TO BE PART OF MY TEAM AGAIN.

FROM HERE ON OUT, YOU TWO...

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THE RULES ARE THE SAME AS WHEN WE FIRST MET.

NOW... I WANT TO SEE HOW MUCH YOU'VE BOTH GROWN.

JINGLE

ATTACK AS THOUGH YOU MEAN TO KILL OR YOU'LL NEVER STAND A CHANCE!

COLORED MANGA.COM

ナンバー

246：

第三演習場

二人の成長!!

246: My, How They've Grown!!

YOU HAVE UNTIL SUNRISE TOMORROW.

THE RULES ARE THE SAME AS BEFORE.

YOU MAY USE WHATEVER TACTICS YOU WISH TO TAKE THE BELLS FROM ME.

...THIS PLACE.

HUH... BRINGS BACK MEMORIES ...

YEAH.

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TEAM SEVEN...

THIS WAS THE SITE OF YOUR VERY FIRST EXERCISE.

OH, RIGHT.

THE THREE-MAN TEAM...

...WE HAD SASUKE, TOO, DIDN'T WE...

...BACK THEN...

!

.....

.....

COLORED MANGA.COM

*DOOM

ズーン

*MUTTER
*MUTTER

*MUTTER
*MUTTER

*CLOMP

!

I GUESS SASUKE'S NAME IS TABOO...

ANYWAY...

...LET'S BEGIN...

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OR HAVE YOU FINISHED IT ALREADY?

*KRIK

*CINCH

HEH HEH, NOT GONNA READ THIS TIME...

KAKASHI-SENSEI?

*TAP...

BESIDES, I GET THE FEELING THAT...

RUSTLE

NOPE... JUST SAVING IT FOR LATER.

...THIS TIME I'M GOING TO HAVE TO...

TUG

...MAKE MORE OF A SERIOUS EFFORT.

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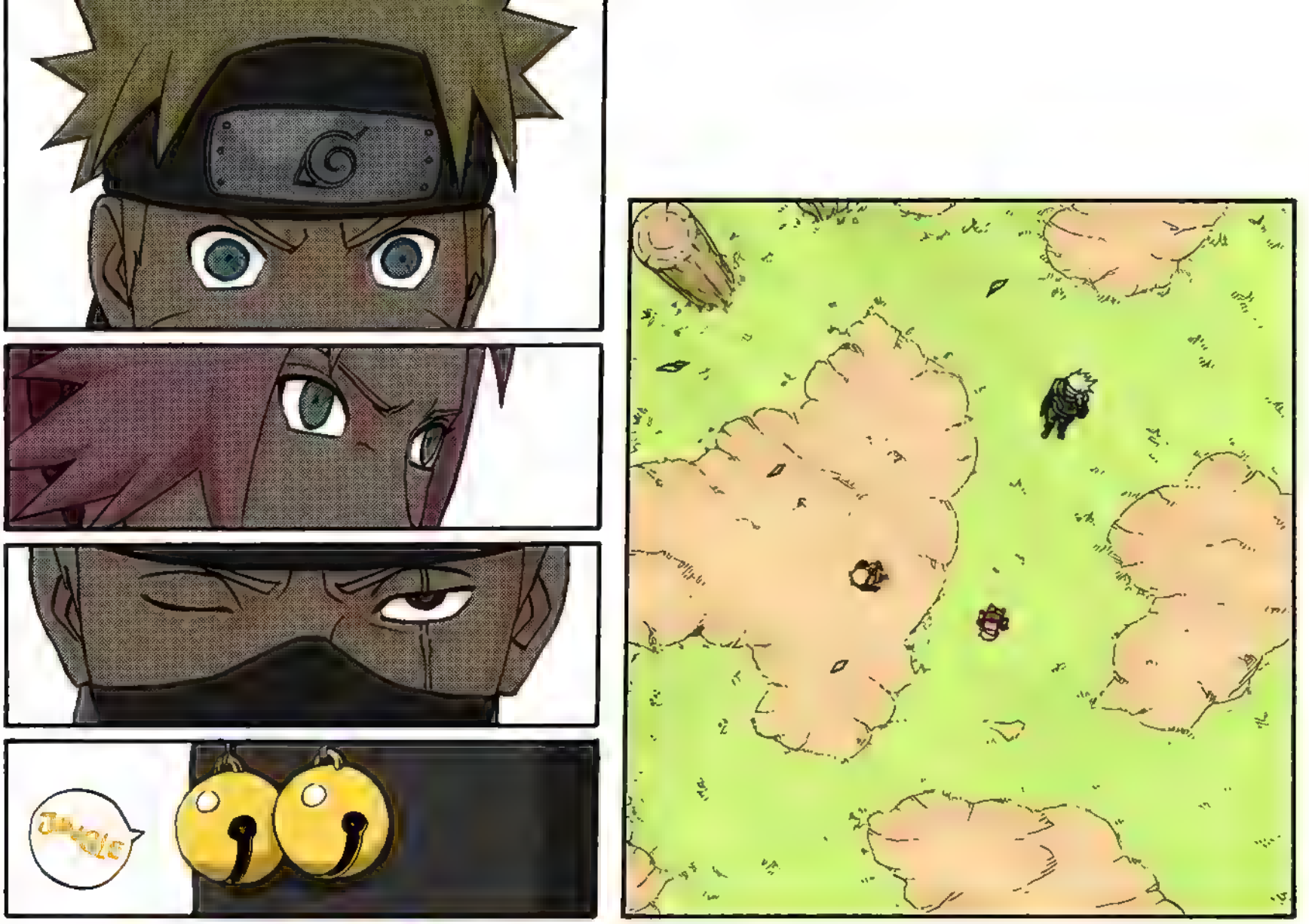
*ZWISH
*SHMP
*SHMP
*WHIP

*SWISH

*SHOOF

UGH!

KAKA

*YANK

*BOOF

*WHOOSH

影分身の術!!

KAGEBUNSHIN!!

SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGER!!

COLORED

NARUTO.COM

*WHOOSH

*BOOF

THOCK THOCK

TRANSFOR-MATION!!

HE USED A SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGER TO HELP MANEUVER IN MIDAIR!

NICE..!

*SCREEEEECH

FWHP

*SNAG

*SHF

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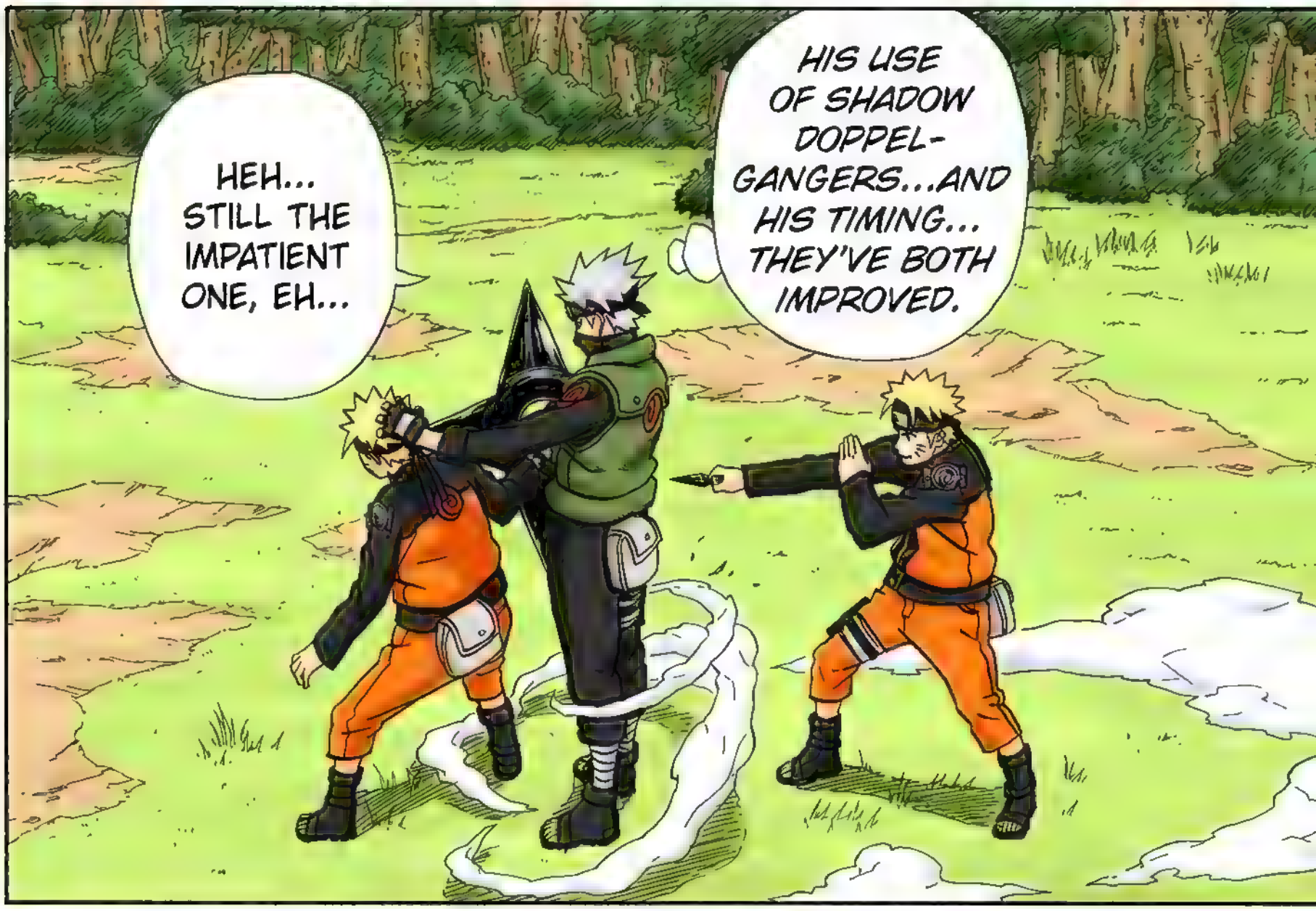

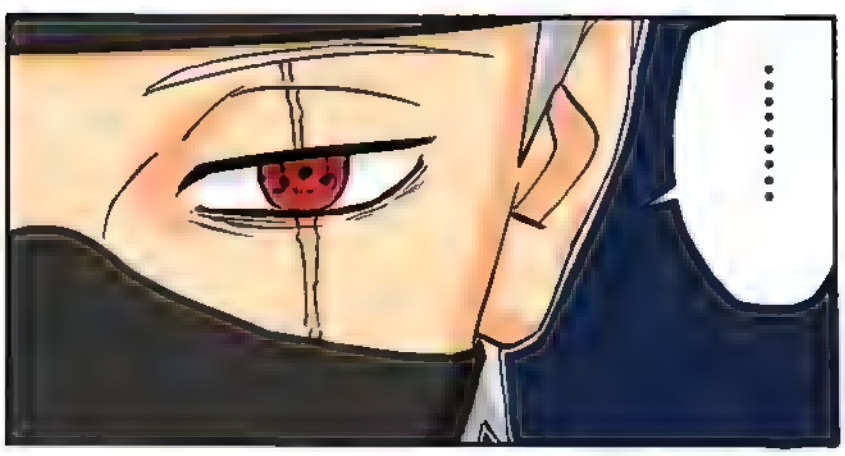

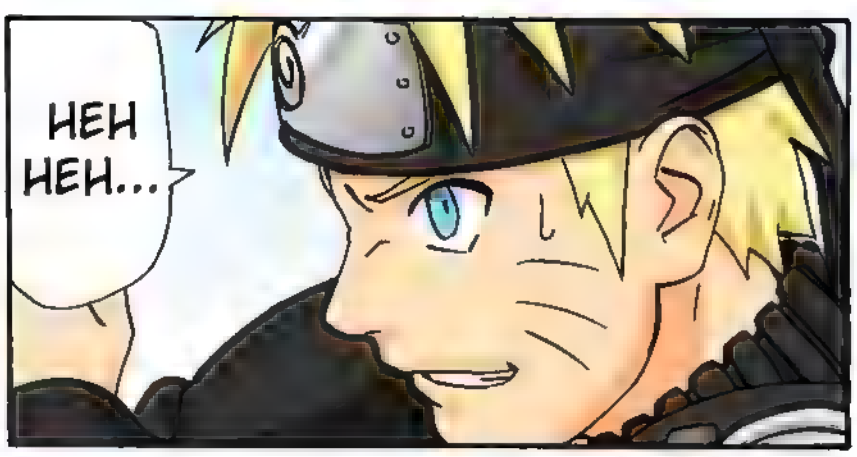

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I DIDN'T SAY "GO."

NOT SO FAST.

*BOOF

!

!

ALL RIGHT, GO!

NO SIGN OF HIM ANYWHERE... SO...

BELOW!!

*REAR

ABOVE... RIGHT...

BEHIND... LEFT...

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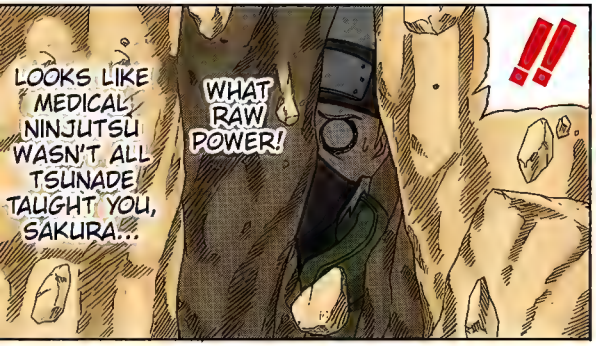
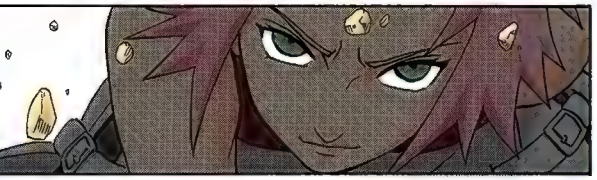
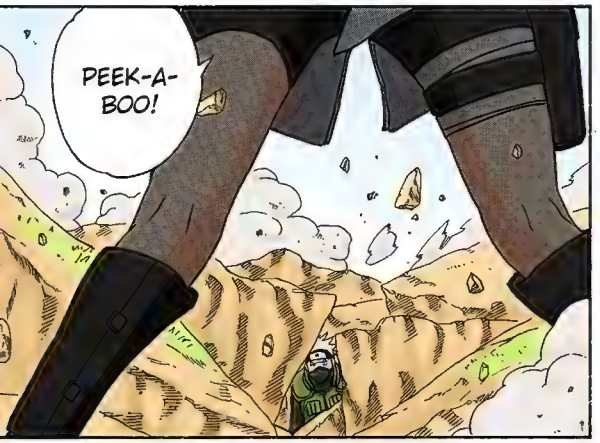
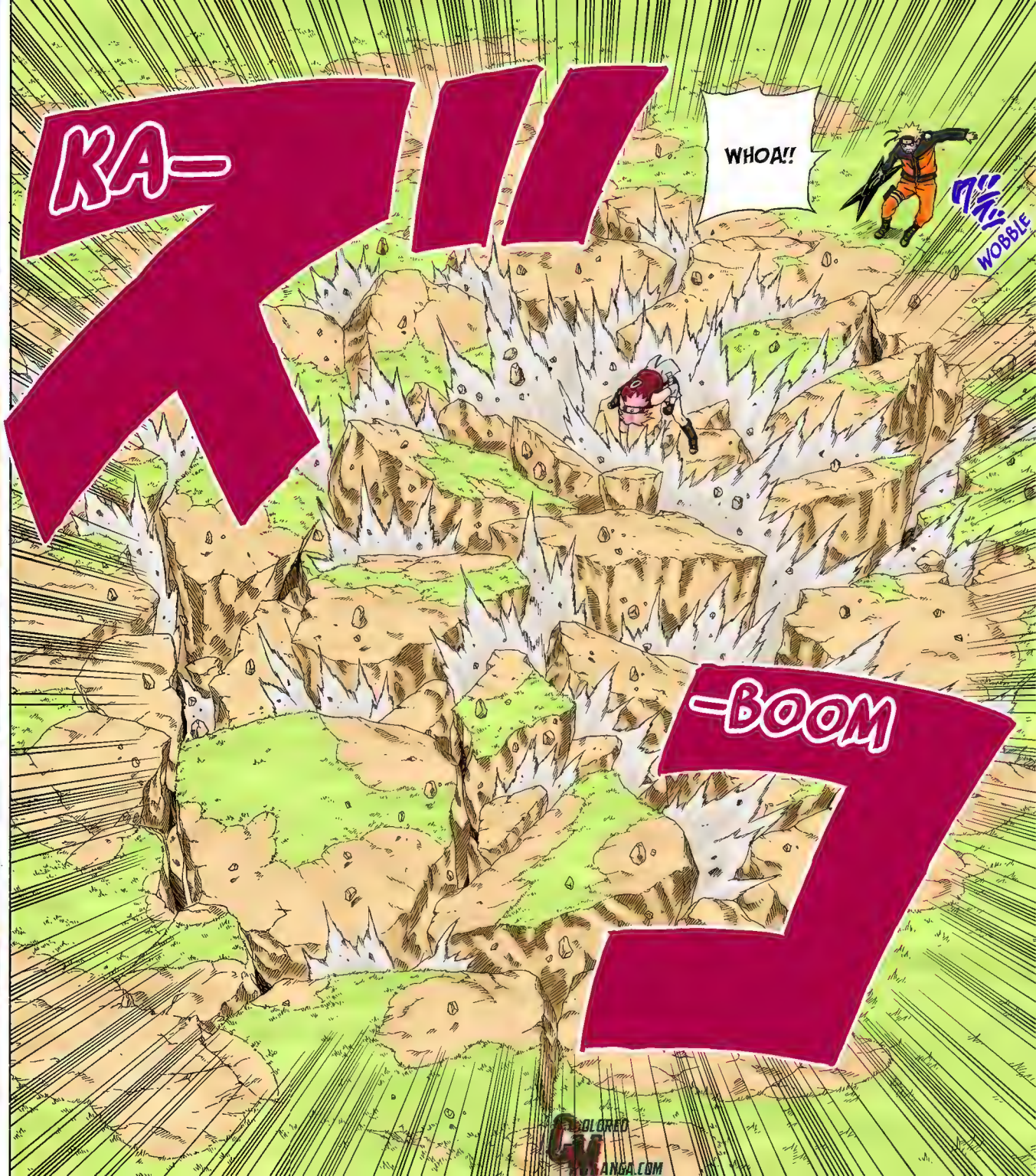
WHAT?!


LOOKS LIKE MEDICAL NINJUTSU WASN'T ALL TSUNADE TAUGHT YOU, SAKURA...
WHAT RAW POWER!
!!




PEEK-A-BOO!


KA-
-BOOM
WHOA!!
WOBBLE

...SHE'LL KILL YOU...!

NOTE TO SELF: *DO NOT* UPSET SAKURA.

...BUT IF THIS DISPLAY OF SKILL IS ANY INDICA-TION...

SAKURA WAS ALWAYS ADEPT AT GENJUTSU...

TO RAPIDLY MANIPULATE MAXIMUM CHAKRA AND INSTANTLY CONCENTRATE IT INTO ONE'S FIST...

HH...

*SHOOF...

JINGLE

HAD YOUR SHOT, KIDS. *MY* TURN NOW...

...SHE MAY JUST END UP A GREATER KUNOICHI THAN EVEN LADY FIFTH!

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HUF PUFF...

SMARTER THAN SHIKAMARU... KEENER SENSE OF SMELL THAN KIBA...

YEAH...KAKASHI-SENSEI'S AS SUPER STRONG AS EVER.

...MORE ADEPT AT SHARINGAN THAN SASUKE... AND HIS TAIJUTSU'S GREATER THAN BUSHY BROWS...

HIS ARMS... WE'VE GOT TO DISABLE THEM SOMEHOW... TIE THEM UP...

I KNEW IT WOULD STILL BE HARD, BUT THAT SHARINGAN SURE IS SOMETHING...

...PLUS, SENSEI'S SIGN-WEAVING SPEED...HE'S SO FAST YOU CAN'T KEEP UP...

HUF

HUF

.....

C'MON, THINK...

BUT HE'S GOT TO HAVE *SOME* WEAKNESS...!

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...BUT I SHOULD BE ABLE TO HOLD THEM OFF UNTIL SUNRISE...

PHEW...CAN'T BELIEVE I'VE HAD TO USE MY SHARINGAN THIS MUCH... ITS BIGGEST DISADVANTAGE IS HOW QUICKLY IT DRAINS MY STAMINA...

.....

THERE IS *ONE*... WEAKNESS!

OH...!

THINK CAREFULLY, AND YOU'LL SEE IT TOO...

HEH HEH, C'MON, SAKURA!

R... REALLY ...?!

HUH?

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CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT THEY'LL COME AT ME WITH NEXT...

THEY REALLY DO MAKE A FORMIDABLE TEAM.

OH, WOULD YOU PLEASE QUIT STALLING AND JUST SPILL IT, NARUTO!

TEE-HEE-HEE...ALL RIGHT...

I DIDN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT *THAT...!*

I SEE...!

...YOU STILL ARE THE NO.1 MAVERICK NINJA!

NARU-TO...

...IT'D BLOCK HIS SHARINGAN, TOO!

IF WE STRIKE *JUST RIGHT...*

NOT ONLY WOULD IT DISABLE HIS ARMS...

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THEN WHAT ARE WE STANDING HERE LOOKING AT EACH OTHER FOR?

ARE YOU READY?!

YUP! LET'S DO IT!

HERE THEY COME!

SNIFF SNIFF

COLORED MANGA.COM

*POP

A FRONTAL ASSAULT...? THEY'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME...

!

HERE I GO! HEY, KAKASHI-SENSEI...

NOW, NARUTO!

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WH... WHAT?!!

!!!

THE MAIN CHARACTER IS REALLY...

...MAKE-OUT TACTICS' FINAL PLOT TWIST!

CLAP

!!

N...NO!!

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BECAUSE OF THE SHARINGAN, I CAN STILL READ HIS LIPS!!

GAH!

*CLAMP

OH!

*JI-JINGLE

REMEM-BER, SENSEI?

HEHHEH... SHINOBI READ THE HIDDEN MEANINGS WITHIN THE HIDDEN MEANINGS.

COLORED MANGA.COM

ナンバー247・・砂(すな)への侵入(しんにゅう)者(しゃ)たち

247: INTRUDERS IN THE SAND

COLORED
MANGA.COM

肉まん

*GAB *GAB

I HONESTLY DIDN'T THINK YOU'D MANAGE TO TAKE THE BELLS!

MY, MY, HOW YOU GUYS HAVE GROWN!

ふとん

どん

*GAB*GAB

AFTER ALL, THIS OLD DOG'S STILL GOT SOME NEW TRICKS...

SOMEDAY.. MAYBE...

..IN FACT, JUST THE OTHER DAY, I INVENTED THIS AMAZING NEW JUTSU...

LIKE THAT'LL EVER HAPPEN!

HEH HEH! MAYBE I'VE SURPASSED YOU, KAKASHI-SENSEI!

KLOP

KLOP

.....

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I'M STARVING FROM LAST NIGHT'S CHALLENGE.

HEY... BUT I STILL HAVEN'T HAD MY ICHIRAKU RAMN!

GRROWL

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YEAH! GOOD IDEA!

HEY, I KNOW! KAKASHI-SENSEI CAN TREAT US!

...WHO USED TO REACT WITH WONDER AT EVERYTHING I SAID AND DID...

...I MISS THE CUTE LITTLE NEWBIES...

.....

*POOF

HE'S BLOWING US OFF...?!

HE WANTS TO READ THE REST OF HIS BOOK, MOST LIKELY.

GOTTA GO DRAW UP AND SUBMIT THE PLATOON LIST WITH THE NEW TEAMS.

...SORRY.

LATER, 'GATORS!

!

WE CAN STILL GO WITHOUT HIM, THE TWO OF US. LIKE IT'S A *DATE*...

DOES THAT MEAN *YOU'RE* BUYING...?

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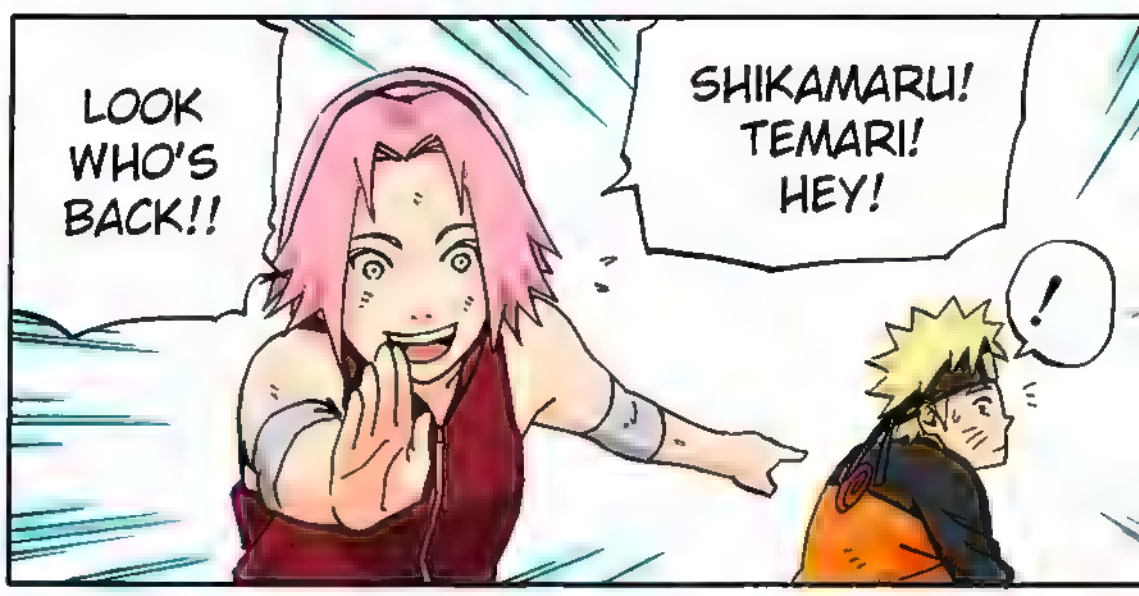

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...THAT SHORTY ...?

WAIT...

SHIKA-MARU!

!

NARUTO!

HEY!

SOMETHING'S DIFFERENT ABOUT YOU... YOU SEEM SMARTER...

...MORE SERIOUS...

NAH, YESTERDAY.

DID YOU JUST GET BACK?

ｸｸｸ!

*SLINK

SO... YOU TWO ARE ON A *DATE*, TOO?

!

*NUH-UH

ｷﾘｯ!!

OH... REALLY?

SAKURA!

ERNT! WRONG ANSWER! PLEASE TRY AGAIN!

ｶﾞｸ.

*WILT

COLORED
NARUSAGA.COM

ぱふ

I'M BEING FORCED TO ACT AS EXAM PROCTOR, SO...

...I WAS ORDERED TO ESCORT THE SAND AMBASSADOR, THAT'S ALL.

OH PLEASE, LIKE I WOULD EVER...?

IT'S ALMOST CHUUNIN SELECTION EXAM TIME AGAIN. AND WHILE I'VE BEEN ACTING AS LIAISON BETWEEN THE SAND AND KONOHA...

NOT. EVEN. CLOSE.

EH?

ABOUT THE CHUUNIN EXAM...OF COURSE.

OH!

...SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, NARUTO?

THE CHUUNIN SELECTION EXAM, HUH...

BRINGS BACK MEMO-RIES...

.....

...WHO *ISN'T* A CHUUNIN.

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE IN OUR YEAR...

COLORED MANGA.COM

WHAT

!!?

NO WAY

!!?

...NEJI, KANKURO, AND THIS LADY HERE ARE ALREADY JOUNIN.

...AND, JUST SO YOU KNOW...

YUP.

YOU MEAN... YOU'RE A CHUUNIN TOO, SAKURA?

風

WHAT ABOUT GAARA?

GAARA!

OH!

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MANGA.COM

LORD KAZEKAGE ...

...IT IS TIME.

愛

VERY WELL.

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WE HAVE SEEN GREAT SUCCESS IN RECRUIT DEVELOPMENT SINCE WE INCORPORATED KONOHA'S TRAINING PROGRAMS INTO OUR CURRICULUM.

...AND OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER ALLY NATIONS' SHINOBI VILLAGES HAVE FLORISHED...

OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, THIS VILLAGE'S POWER HAS STABILIZED...

HOWEVER, AGAIN, AT THIS JUNCTURE...

...UNSAVORY RUMORS ABOUND...

.....

THE CHUUNIN EXAM IS APPROACHING.

I LOOK FORWARD TO ITS RESULTS.

SUCH AS?

COLORED BY NARUTOMANGA.COM

...BUT HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF AN ORGANIZATION CALLED "THE AKATSUKI"?

THIS IS FROM LORD JIRAIYA, ONE OF THE LEGENDARY THREE GREAT SHINOBI...

THEY'VE ALREADY POSTED BLACK OPS AT KEY POINTS AROUND THEIR VILLAGE'S PERIMETER...SO HOPEFULLY...

...AT THIS POINT, EVEN I SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO RIDE INTO THE SAND UNDETECTED...

SAND AGREED TO IMMEDIATELY ENTER A STATE OF EMERGENCY.

愛

だ ん ご

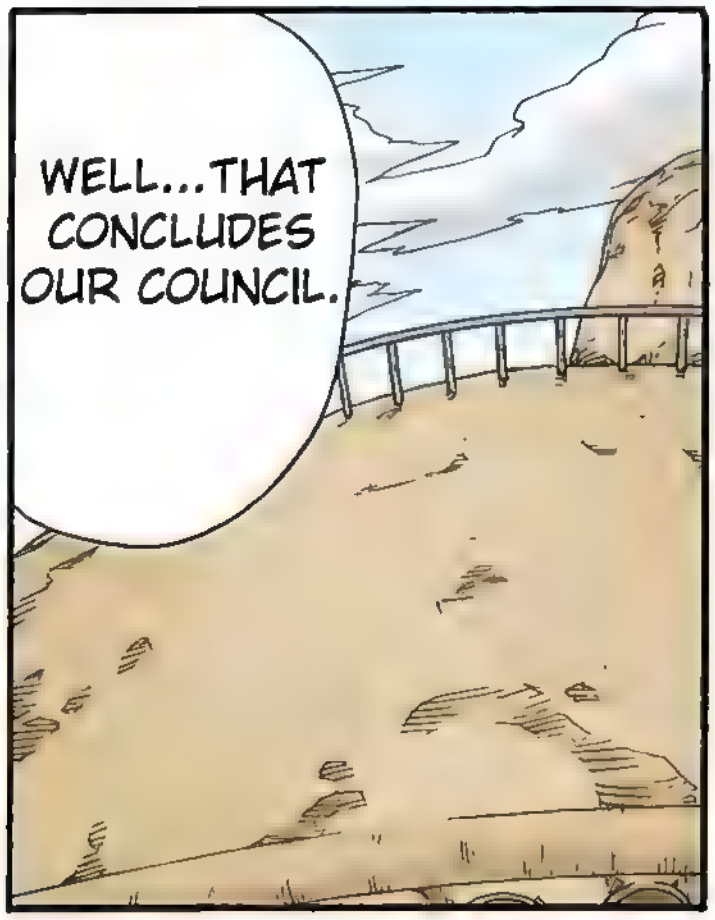
WHICH IS WHY I'M HEADING OUT AGAIN.

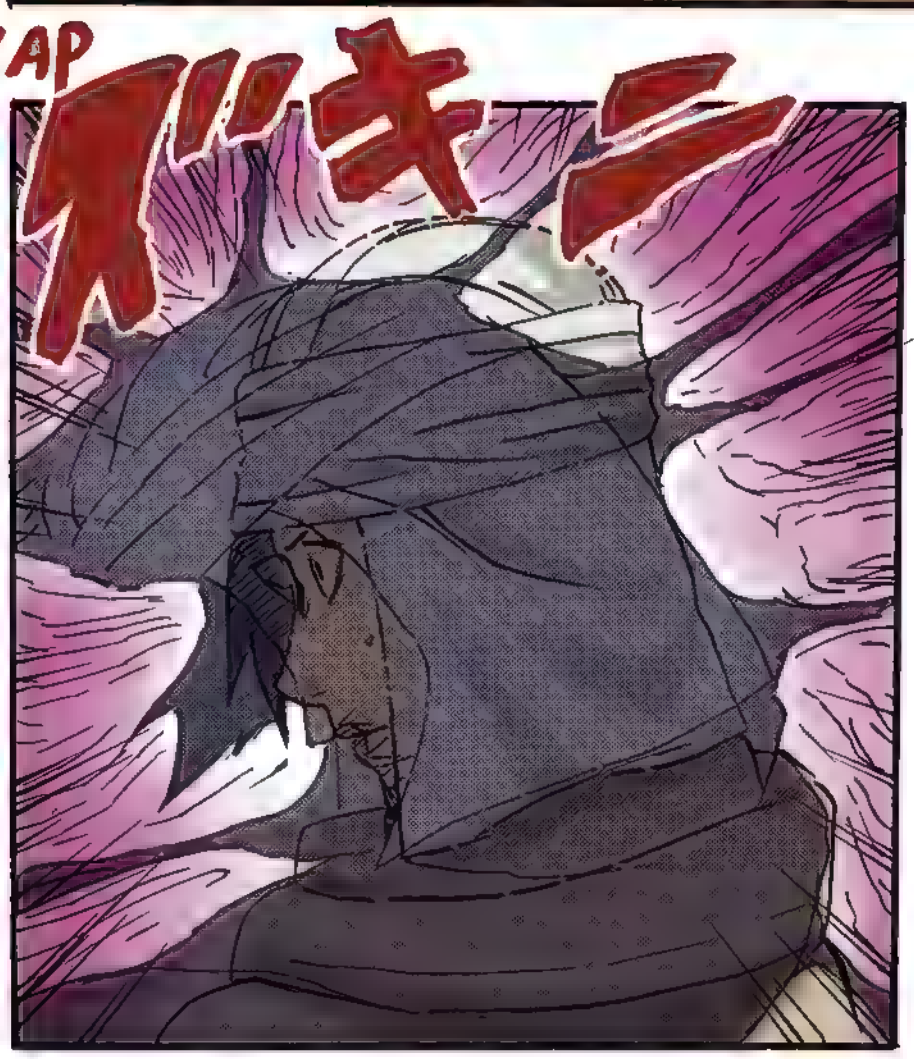
WHAT DO THEY SEEK?

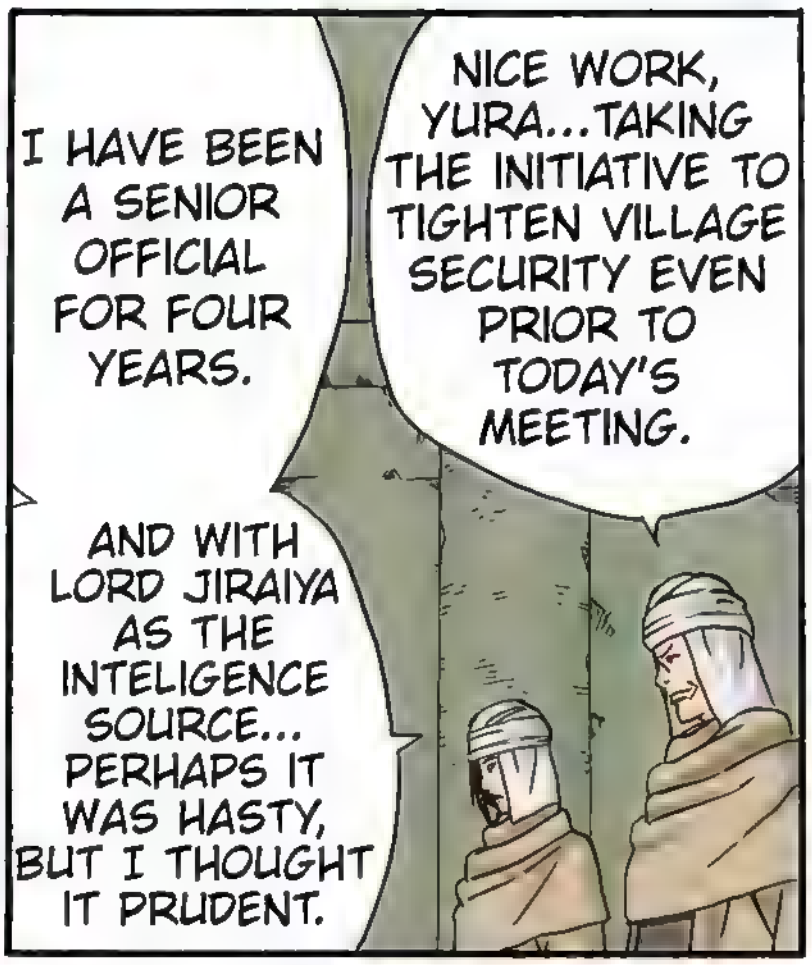
SO WHY HAS THE AKATSUKI STARTED MOVING ABOUT SO OVERTLY?

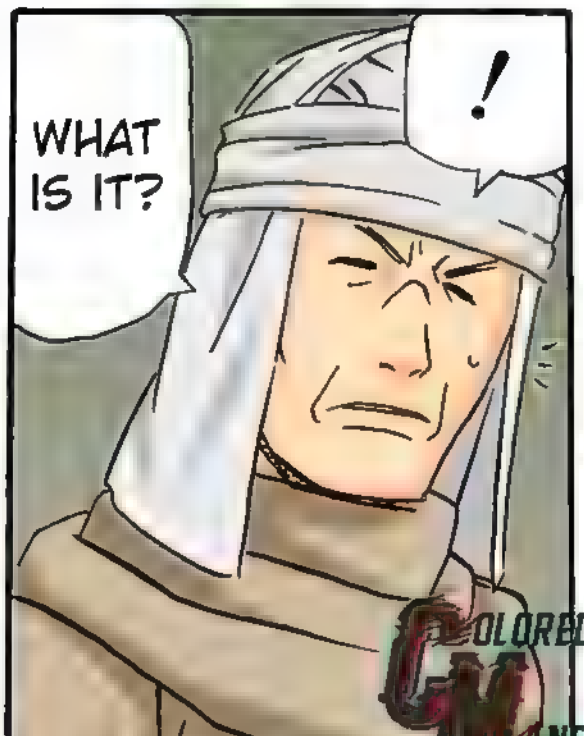
THAT I STILL DON'T KNOW.

COLORED MANGA.COM






I HAVE BEEN A SENIOR OFFICIAL FOR FOUR YEARS.
NICE WORK, YURA...TAKING THE INITIATIVE TO TIGHTEN VILLAGE SECURITY EVEN PRIOR TO TODAY'S MEETING.
AND WITH LORD JIRAIYA AS THE INTELIGENCE SOURCE... PERHAPS IT WAS HASTY, BUT I THOUGHT IT PRUDENT.



COLORED MANGA.COM

...SO THAT'S WHAT'S...

I SEE...

FWMP

FWMP

ズズズ

*WHOOOO

*DREDGE
*DREDGE

COLORED MANGA.COM

FWHP

FWHP

SO, FIRST THE ONE WE GAVE OROCHIMARU... AND NOW THIS ONE...

I SEE...

JINGLE

ズ"ズ"ズ"

*DREDGE..

ONCE I CAST THE JUTSU, THERE'S NO TELLING HOW THEY'LL TURN OUT.

SORRY, CAN'T BE HELPED.

ARE OUR SECRETS SAFE WITH NO ONE?

ズ"ズ"ズ"..

ﾌｧ

ﾌｧ

*DREDGE *DREDGE

*FWHP *FWHP

MY JUTSU ARE *ALL* WORKS OF ART...BUT JUST IN CASE, I BROUGHT CHAKO, MY SPECIALTY.

SINCE OUR OPPONENT...

FFT...

ARE YOU SURE THAT ONE BAG'S ENOUGH?

OUR OPPONENT IS A JINCHUURIKI HOST...

COLORED MANGA.COM

...IS ONE-TAIL.

SLURP

THOSE ARE..!

BLACK COATS WITH RED CLOUD PATTERNS...

WHAT THE...?

*KRUNCH

*DREDGE

*DREDGE

*KRUNCH

COLORED MANGA.COM

COM-
MANDER
YURA!

!

*DREDGE
*DREDGE

KLOP

KLOP

DO NOT
WORRY...
IT WILL BE
OVER IN A
FLASH.

*KRUNCH

KLOP

KLOP

COLORED MANGA.COM

*THUMP

YES, SIR!

OF COURSE, LORD SASORI!

VERY GOOD... DO YOU REMEMBER ME NOW?

GNAW GNAW

LET'S GET TO IT, THEN...

*FFT...

ONCE THEIR MEMORIES ARE RESTORED, THEY'RE LOYAL SERVANTS.

OF COURSE YOU DO.

IF YOU'D FORGOTTEN, IT WOULDN'T BE A GOOD JUTSU NOW, WOULD IT...?

COLORED MANGA.COM

*CLENCH

*POP

*MASH

BELCH

SASORI, YOU JUST WATCH ME...

*BOOF

*KRUNCH

I WILL ATTACK FROM ABOVE.

*SHWIP-SHWIP

HOP

COLORED MANGA.COM

*SIIOOF
...SHOW ME YOUR ART...
ONE-TAILED SHUKAKU'S HOST, GAARA OF THE SAND...
JUST DON'T KEEP ME WAITING.
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MY ARTISITIC CREATION, HMMM?
FLIP

ナンバー

248：

248: THE SAND STRIKE BACK!!

COLORED
MANGA.COM

*WHOOOOO

*WHOO

*OOO

ONE, TWO, THREE...

KLIK-KLIK

COLORED MANGA.COM

THREE ROOFTOP SCOUTS...

*WHISH...

FIRST STROKE... CONVERT OPS...

ALL THE MORE PLEASING TO DESTROY IT THEN, *HMMM?!*

THE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN OF THIS VILLAGE IS SURPRISINGLY TASTEFUL...

ゴソ ゴソ

*RUSTLE

*POOF *POOF *POOF

ボン ボン ボン

*SHWUP

*FLIP...

ポイ

COLORED MANGA.COM

*BLIP..

*BLIP...

*BLIP...

!

COLORED MANGA.COM

WH...WHAT'S THIS WEIRD THING?!

!

SKRIT

?

WHAP*

*CREEP...

SOME PEOPLE WOULDN'T KNOW TRUE ART IF IT BIT THEM IN THE FACE.

"THING"...? PHILISTINE!

!!

*CROUCH...

*FLAIL

BUT I'LL SHOW YOU TRUE ART...

UGGH!

*FLAIL

COLORED
MANGA.COM

TRUE ART IS REVOLUTIONARY ... INCENDIARY ...

...AN EXPLOSION!

*YEEAAGH

*BOOM

COLORED MANGA.COM

HEE
HEE
HEE

*SWOOOOOP

*TUMP

*SHOOF

EH?!

AND
NOW
I'M IN,
HMMM?!

COLORED
NARUTO.COM

*SHOOM

WHOA.

COLORED MANGA.COM

*TAP

*FSSH

*SHOOF

*LASH

*SHOOF

*ZWHOOOOOOOOSH

*SKEE...

COLORED
MANGA.COM

HO... THAT'S QUITE USEFUL ...

BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW, HMMM?

GNAW GNAW

TAP*

*RISE

THERE ARE NO SUCH BIRDS...

...IN THIS DESERT.

*ZWOOOO

*FLAP

*FLAP

SO THE OPERATION FAILED, HMMM?

BUT AT LEAST I DON'T HAVE TO SEARCH FOR YOU ANYMORE.

*FSSSH

*SWOO

*SWOO

SCANNED BY MANGA.COM

*RRRRRUMBLE..

!

*BLAST

AH! AN INGENIOUS USE OF THE TOPO-GRAPHY...

AT LAST, AN AUDIENCE *WORTHY* OF MY ART!

COLORED
NARUTOMANGA.COM

YEAH, I GUESS SO...

...BUT IRUKA-SENSEI, THAT PERVY SAGE, HE DOESN'T HOLD BACK!

DON'T GET SO HUNG UP ON RANK, NARUTO.

YOU'VE BEEN TRAINING UNDER LORD JIRAIYA. THAT COUNTS FOR A LOT MORE.

THE TRAINING YOU'VE ENDURED CANNOT. WHY, JUST LOOK AT HOW *STRONG* YOU'VE BECOME!

CLOTHES CAN BE REPLACED.

REMEMBER THAT HEADBAND YOU GAVE ME? THE CLOTH PART WAS RUINED.

MY CLOTHES, TOO!

HEH... DON'T PUSH IT, KID...

YEAH!

I MIGHT EVEN BE STRONGER THAN YOU NOW, SENSEI!

COLORED MANGA.COM

WELL... HE ALWAYS *WAS* SPECIAL.

OH! HEY!

DID YOU HEAR? GAARA OF THE SAND IS KAZEKAGE!!

*VOOSH

ボーン *BOM

ボーン *BOM

STRANGE EXPLO-SIVES...

...PRECISION GUARDED...

FOOSH!!

FOOSH!!

COLORED BY MANGA.COM

*ZWHOOOOSH

スオオオオオ

SKIM

*WHIP

*WHIP

*FLIT...

*POOF

POOF

THESE NEXT ONES ARE FAST, HMMM?!

*SHWUP

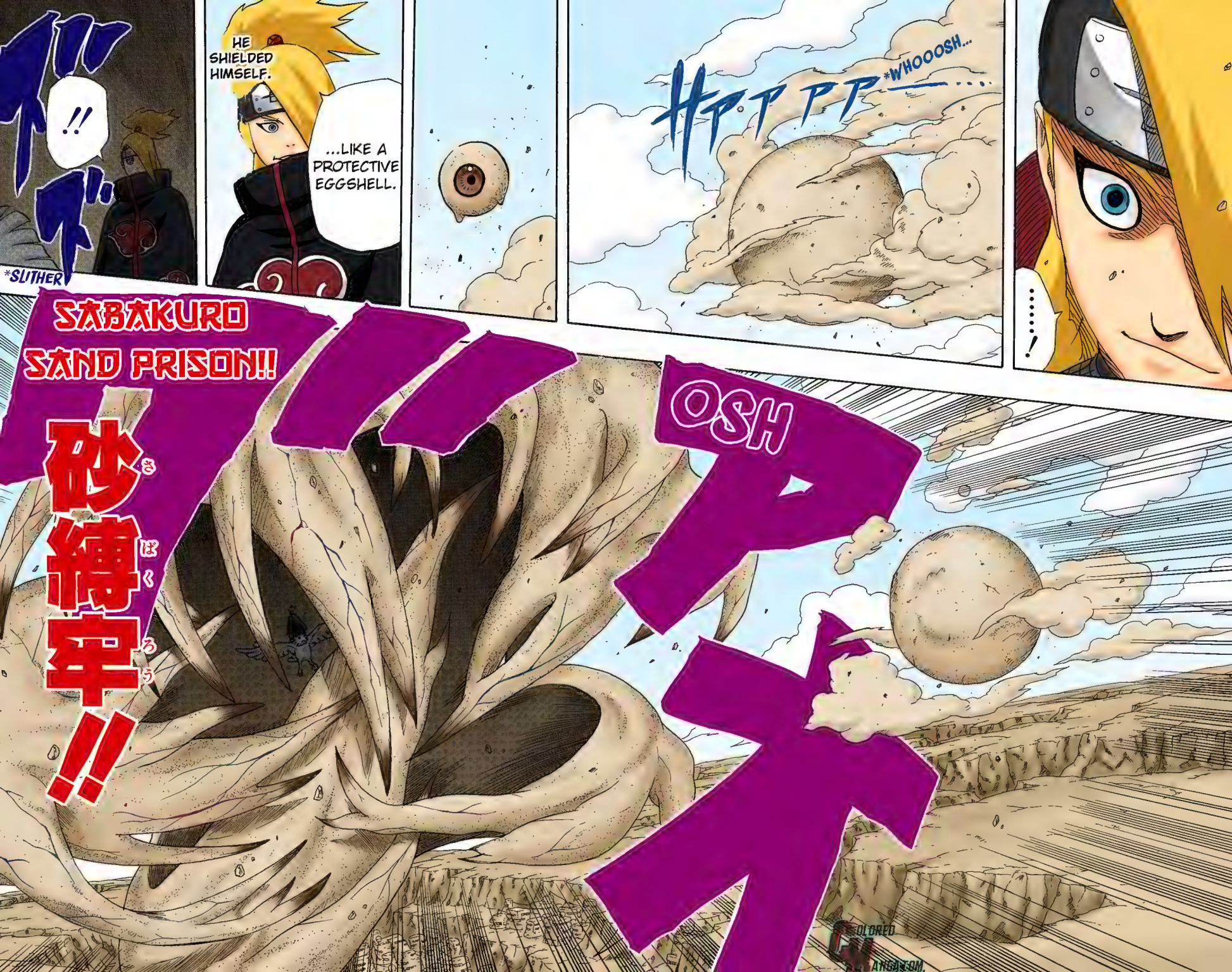
COLORED MANGA.COM

*SKEEET

*LASH

*KA BOOM

*YEEAAGH


!!
*SLITHER
HE SHIELDED HIMSELF.
...LIKE A PROTECTIVE EGGSHELL.
HPAPP
*WHOOOSH...
.....!
SABAKURO SAND PRISON!!
砂縛牢!!
OSH
COLORED BY ANIGATOM

ボン

*POP...

*BLAST

THIS IS *NOT* GOOD...

*ROSH

ゴゴゴ・・・・

!

*SWISH

ビュン

COLORED
MANGA.COM

THE COFFIN OF CRUSHING SAND!

*CLENCH

!!

*SPLAT

*CRUSH

COLORED BY NARUTOMANGA.COM

ナンバー

249：

風影として…!!

かぜかげ

249: THE KAZEKAGE STANDS TALL...!!

*SHWUP

SLIP

……!

CLUTCH

BOOF

COLORED

MANGA.COM

*YANK

*YANK

...BUT I'M ALMOST OUT OF CLAY... ONLY HAVE ENOUGH FOR ONE MORE ATTACK...

HE'S GOOD. HMMM ?!

RUSTLE

*WHOOSH...

...INTO WHICH HE THEN POURS AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF CHAKRA, MAKING A SPECIAL KIND OF SAND.

HE ALWAYS CARRIES A SET AMOUNT OF SAND IN HIS GOURD...

...IS DIFFERENT FROM THE ORDINARY SAND HE LIFTED FROM THE DESERT...

...HMMM. THAT SAND THAT CRUSHED MY ARM AND PROTECTS HIM...

SLITHER

COLORED MANGA.COM

...THEN THE PORTION MISSING FROM THAT HOLE IS WHAT CRUSHED MY ARM...

...AS WELL AS HIS ABSOLUTE DEFENSE...

IF THAT'S THE SAND HE USES FOR HIS LIGHTNING-FAST ATTACKS...

RUSTLE

*HOIST

...MY OHAKO CAN EXPLOIT IT...

.....

COLORED
MANGA.COM

...BY HIS GARB, I SUSPECT HE'S A MEMBER OF THE AKATSUKI.

LORD KAZEKAGE'S OPPONENT...

MEDICAL CORPS, ERECT A SHIELD AND EVACUATE ALL NON-COMBATANTS WITHIN!

PREPARE FOR BATTLE, NOW!

WE MUST COVER LORD KAZEKAGE!

YES, SIR!

I THOUGHT SO...

COLORED MANGA.COM

.....

SIR?

KANKURO...

...AND HAVE A CONTINGENCY PLAN IN CASE SHUKAKU EMERGES.

WE MUST CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF GAARA GOING FERAL...

COME ON, NO WAY...

...GAARA WOULDN'T HURT ANY VILLAGERS...

COLORED MANGA.COM

...YOU'RE NO MORE THAN A WEAPON OF MASS TERROR TO THE VILLAGE.

I DON'T REALLY WANT TO SAY THIS, BUT...

.....

IT'S FULL OF JOUNIN WHO THINK POORLY OF YOU...

...AND MOST OF THE VILLAGE FEARS YOU, TOO...

FOR YOU TO SPLIT OFF FROM US NOW AND ENTER THE REGULAR TROOPS... IT'LL ONLY BE HARDER ON YOU.

I MUST CLEAR MY OWN PATH.

I KNOW WHAT I MUST DO, KANKURO.

I DON'T CARE...

...DOING NOTHING WILL ONLY BRING EVEN GREATER PAIN.

PERHAPS THEN... SOMEDAY... I CAN BE LIKE *HIM*...

COLORED MANGA.COM

.....

I WILL AIM FOR THE TITLE OF KAZEKAGE, AS A SHINOBI OF THE SAND.

I WILL *CONNECT* TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS VILLAGE... AND SURVIVE.

BUT HE KEPT ASKING...KEPT *PUSHING* ME...

...TO REDEFINE THOSE TIES...

UNTIL I MET HIM, TIES TO OTHERS...

...ONLY EVER BROUGHT ME PAIN AND SORROW.

...THAT'S WHAT I DECIDED AFTER WATCHING UZUMAKI NARUTO.

I WANT TO WORK HARD...AND BECOME SOMEONE OTHERS ACKNOWLEDGE AND RESPECT...

.....

...I THINK I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND WHY.

AND NOW, FINALLY ...

TO SHARE ONE'S FEELINGS WITH OTHERS ISN'T WEAKNESS...

...IT'S STRENGTH...

HIS EXAMPLE HAS SHOWN ME...I CAN CHANGE MY LIFE...MY DESTINY.

HE'S EXPERIENCED PAIN AS I HAVE, BUT HE NEVER LET IT BEAT HIM.

WE *CONNECTED.*

...THAT IS WHAT UZUMAKI NARUTO TAUGHT ME...

WHEN WE FOUGHT...

...AND NOT AS SOME WEAPON OF TERROR...

...ONE DAY, I'D LIKE TO BECOME SOMETHING PRECIOUS TO OTHERS, TOO...

COLORED MANGA.COM

...BUT AS KAZEKAGE.

HURRAH, LORD KAZEKAGE!!

COLORED
MANGA.COM

*PUFF..

IT'S JUST AS SASORI SAID. PERHAPS I UNDERESTIMATED GAARA...I WASN'T FULLY PREPARED, *HMMM?*

IT'S DISTASTEFUL, TO BE ATTACKED FROM BELOW, *HMMM?* AND I'M TIRED OF SEEING YOUR EXPRESSIONLESS FACE!

I SHOULD DESTROY THIS VILLAGE, *HMMM?*

WITH A DOLL MOLDED FROM DETONATING CLAY CHEWED UP BY MY PALM AND LOADED WITH CHAKRA, THAT IS...

*FWOOOOO

COLORED

ANGA.COM

AMONG ALL MY DOLLS, OHAKO IS MY PRIZE MASTERPIECE, CONTAINING C3 CHAKRA.

WHAT IS THAT?

.....!

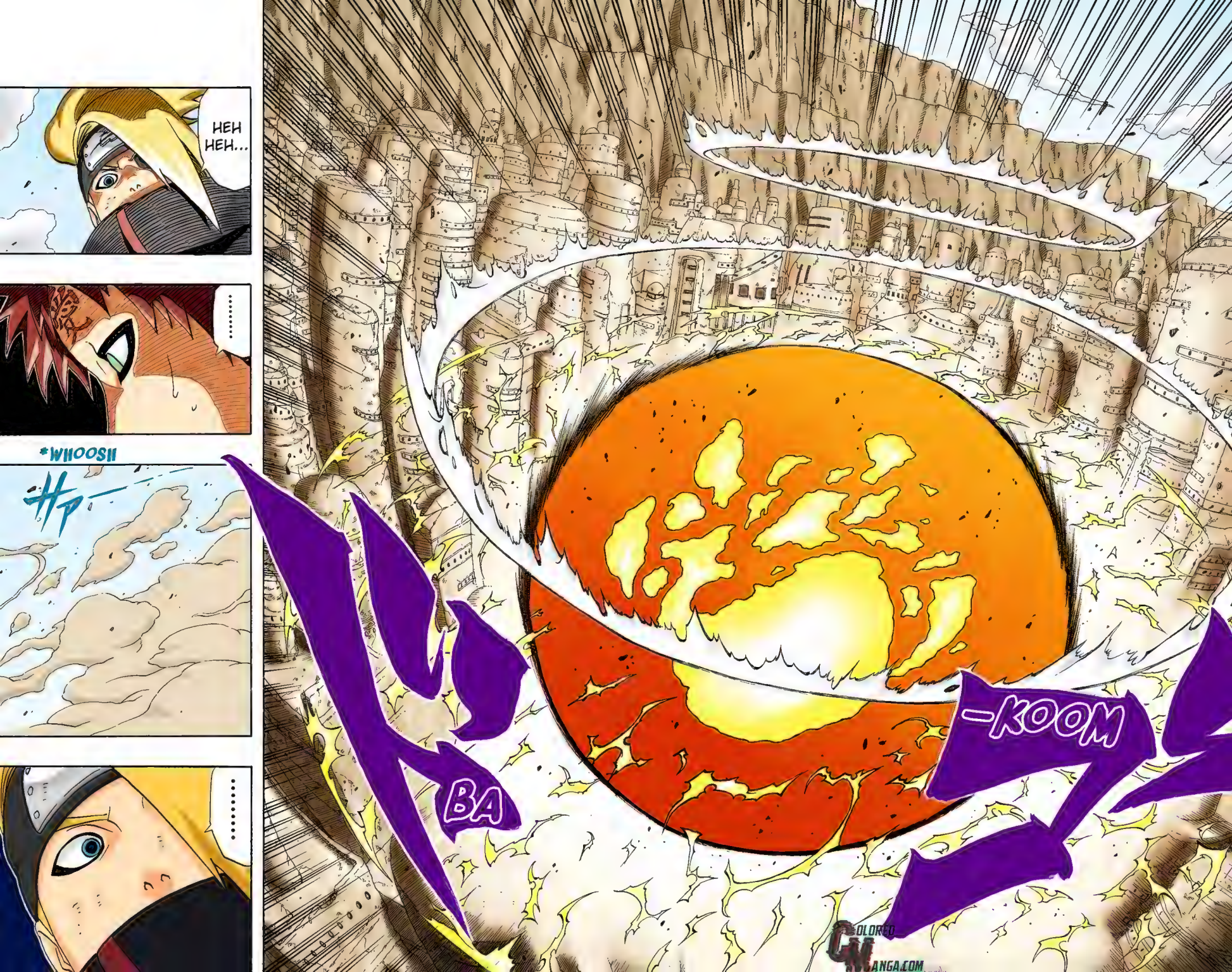
!!

*YEEAAGH 嗚

TOO LATE!

NOT GOOD. RUN!!

COLORED
NARUTOMANGA.COM


HEH HEH...
.....
*WHOOSH
.....
BA
-KOOM

*BILLOW

ゴゥ...

*BILLOW...

ゴゥ...

...
GAARA
...

...LORD KAZEKAGE'S SAND...!

...THAT'S...

WHOA!! LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THAT SHIELD!

COLORED MANGA.COM

*GRRRR

ガシ

NOW YOU'RE IN RANGE, HMMM!

HUF

HUF

*KA-BOOM!

*YEEAAGH

ウラ

COLORED
MANGA.COM

SWIFT AND RESILIANT...

バサ バサ

*FLAP *FLAP

...IF SOME-WHAT PREDICT-ABLE!

.....

HUF HUF

COLORED MANGA.COM

!!

*YEEAAGH

SWIFT AND RESILIANT...

忍

*SHUDDER

ドドド

*CRUSH...

THAT'S HOW I WAS ABLE TO PUT YOUR GREAT DEFENSE TO USE...

HEH HEH... YOUR SAND MAY HAVE CRUSHED MY LEFT ARM, BUT NOT BEFORE I WAS ABLE TO CHEW SOME OF IT AND INFUSE THE GRAINS WITH DETONATING CLAY.

SO I DROPPED OHAKO ON THE VILLAGE.

...I NEEDED TO DISTRACT YOU FIRST BEFORE SPRINGING MY TRAP.

BUT SINCE I ONLY HAD ONE ATTACK LEFT...

*SCATTER...

I KNEW A CLOSE-RANGE EXPLOSION WOULD TRIGGER YOUR PERSONAL SAND SHIELD...

...AS PART OF MY OFFENSIVE...

*SCATTER...

*SLITHER...

HO HO... LEAVE IT TO YOU, KAZEKAGE... USING THE LAST OF YOUR STRENGTH TO RETURN THE SAND OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE...

...WHEN IT'D BE SO MUCH EASIER JUST TO DUMP IT ON 'EM.

COLORED BY MANGA.COM

G... GAARA?!

*SHOOM

...AND A MOST SATISFYING END TO THIS MASTER-PIECE...

SNARING YOU ALIVE WAS THE HARD PART...

COLORED MANGA.COM

ナンバー

250：

250: NEW SQUAD, FIRST MISSION!!

COLORED
NARUTOMANGA.COM

HEH HEH ...

*WHISK

*ZOOM

HE WAS AFTER GAARA ALL ALONG! GAH!!

!

*GNASH

HE'S TAKING HIM ALIVE?!

COLORED MANGA.COM

I CAN'T JUST STAND AROUND AND DO NOTHING!!

!

HE'S POWERFUL ENOUGH TO TAKE DOWN GAARA!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'LL ACCOM-PLISH?!!

KANKURO! WAIT!

I'LL TRY!!

ALL RIGHT ...!

*WHIRL

IF WE CAN PIN DOWN THEIR HIDEOUT, WE CAN RALLY THE TROOPS AND ATTACK!!

THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING!

BE SMART ABOUT THIS...*TRACK* HIM...DON'T TRY TO ATTACK!

*SCREECH

*ZOOM

...GAH...!

KAN-KURO ...!!

TSK...

COLORED MANGA.COM

*SHOOM

*STOMP
*STOMP

AND RELAY OUR SITUATION TO KONOHA NOW!

TELL THEM THIS IS AN EMERGENCY!

DEPLOY A TRACKING UNIT AND HAVE THEM TAIL KANKURO!

SOMETHING'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN...

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS...

*THUMP

YES, SIR!

COLORED MANGA.COM

HE'S LANDING ...?!!

*SKIM

スウ――:

SPROING

*FLAP

YOU'RE LATE... I TOLD YOU, DON'T KEEP ME WAITING.

PERHAPS NEXT TIME YOU'LL LISTEN TO ME...

YOU WERE RIGHT. HE WAS RATHER STRONG. *HMMM?*

COLORED MANGA.COM

NO... THIS CAN'T BE...

...WH... WHAT...?!

.....

*SHOOF

*GRRR

COLORED NARUTOMANGA.COM

ズズズ..

ｱﾘ ｱﾘ

*DREDGE-DREDGE

*FLOP-FLOP

STOP!!

COLORED MANGA.COM

I'M TAKING GAARA BACK!

!

DEIDARA... GO ON AHEAD.

?

SHF

SHF

*THUNK

ドサッ

COLORED MANGA.COM

*SLAP

(SCROLL: CROW)

(SCROLL: SALAMANDER)

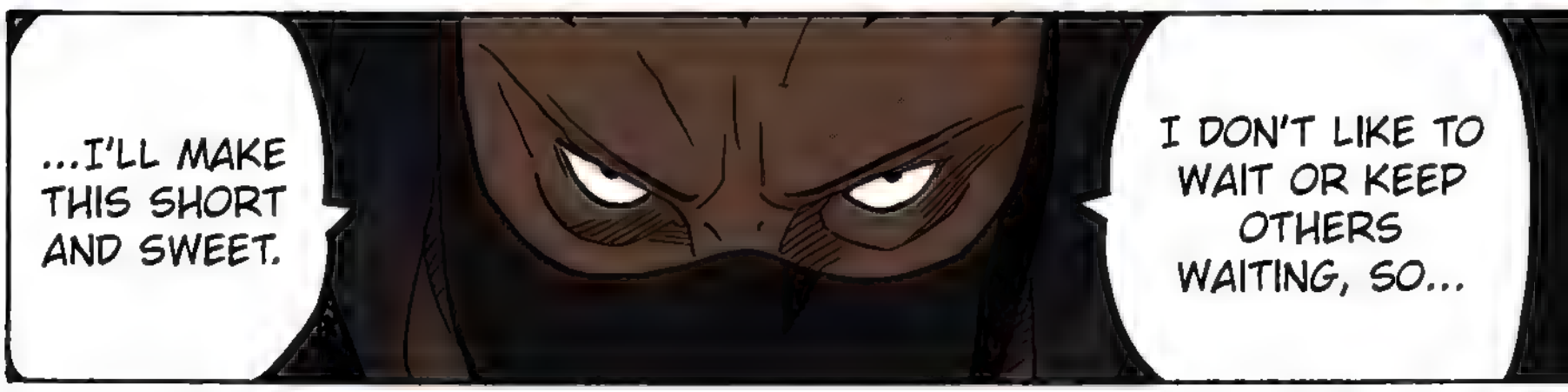
(SCROLL: ANT)

*BOOF

*CLAP

COLORED MANGA.COM

CLAKETA-
CLIKETA-
CLACK
!
*CRACK
*WOOSH
*LASH
YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE!
*TAP
HEH... ENJOY THE SHOW...
PUPPET ARTS, HUH...



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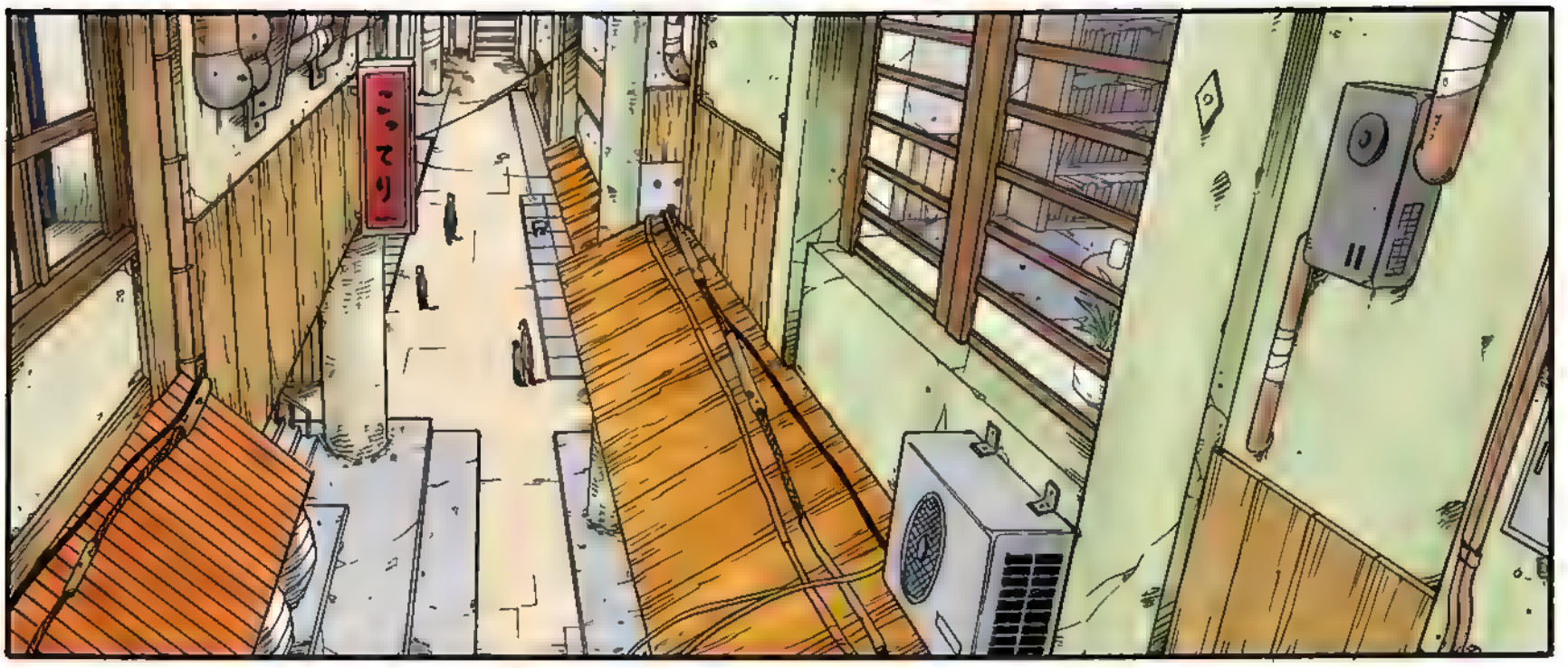


AND YOU'RE NOT EXCITED?!!

TODAY IS THE FIRST DAY OF OUR MISSION AS A NEW TEAM, YOU KNOW!

KAKASHI-SENSEI! YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL!!

SORRY, I WAS PROCRAS-TINATING ON THE NEW TEAM'S PAPERWORK...

YOU'RE LATE!

!

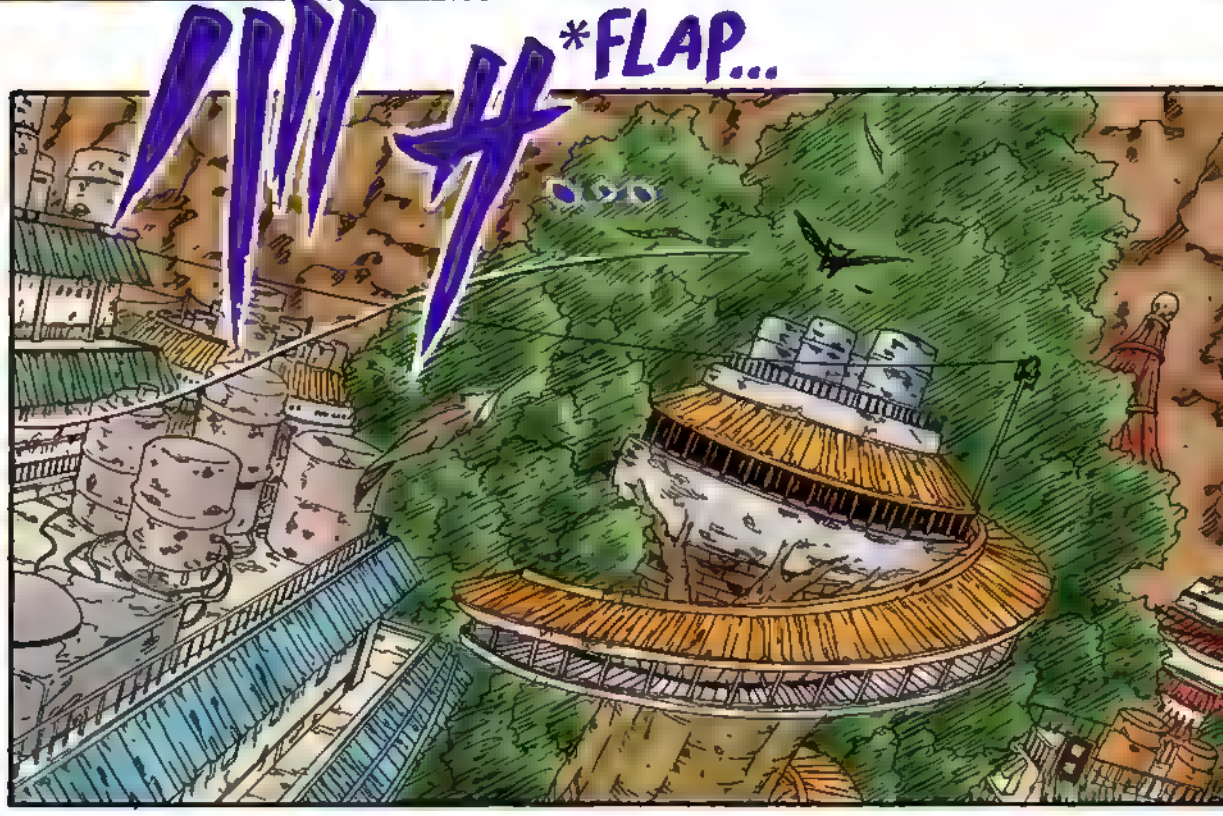
NOT SURE THAT WAS A COMPLI-MENT...

.....

SO WHAT IF HE'S A LITTLE LACKADAISI-CAL? THAT'S JUST WHO HE IS.

OH, LIKE YOU'RE ONE TO TALK, NARUTO!

COLORED MANGA.COM



COLORED MANGA.COM

*CLAMP...

THAT'S SUNAGAKURE'S HAWK, TAKAMARU!

!!

*TUMP

CALL UP THE DECODERS NOW!

*FSSSH

WHAT-EVER IT WAS...

...WE'LL KNOW SOON ENOUGH!

IF THEY SENT THEIR SWIFTEST CARRIER...

...SOME-THING VERY BAD MUST'VE HAPPENED AT THE SAND VILLAGE!

COLORED MANGA.COM

(BANNER: EVERYONE, GOOD LUCK!)

(CEILING: SHINOBI)

WE ARE NOT GOING ON THAT MISSION!

UH-HUH! NO WAY !!

GROAN *SIGH

...'CUZ I'M THE ONE WHO'LL HAVE TO TAKE THE HEAT IF YOU DON'T...

CALM DOWN NARUTO ...

*HUMPH

YOUNG MAN...

...YOU DO REALIZE *WHO* YOU'RE SPEAKING TO LIKE THAT...?

COLORED MANGA.COM

I...IDIOT! YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW FEROCIOUS LADY TSUNADE CAN BE!

S...SO SORRY, MILADY!

I'LL SPEAK TO HIM LATER!

*STRANGLE

NARUTO... MENTALLY, YOU HAVEN'T MATURED AT ALL...

SIGH...

*CHOKE

W...WILL YOU QUIT IT!

FOOSH

FLUT-TER

EXCUSE ME...?!

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?!

OLD MAN THIRD...HE REALLY KNEW HIS STUFF.

NOW WHAT?

*SLAM

T... TERRIBLE NEWS!

LADY FIFTH!!

COLORED MANGA.COM

WE'VE JUST RECEIVED WORD THAT SAND'S KAZEKAGE...

...HAS BEEN KIDNAPPED BY A MEMBER OF THE AKATSUKI!

.....!

.....!

!

!!

...THOSE THUGS AGAIN, HUH...

GAARA...!

COLORED MANGA.COM

...I HEREBY AMEND YOUR MISSION.

...TEAM KAKASHI...

FLIP...

.....

AFTERWARDS, YOU WILL FOLLOW SAND'S ORDERS AND PROVIDE THEM WHATEVER ASSISTANCE THEY REQUIRE!

YOU WILL LEAVE FOR THE SAND NOW! ASSESS THE SITUATION AND REPORT BACK IMMEDIATELY!

COLORED MANGA.COM

ナンバー 251：砂（すな）へ…!!

251: TO THE SAND...!!

COLORED MANGA.COM

FWHOOOOOO*

BODY'S STARTING TO TINGLE... DON'T TELL ME...

HE USES POISON, TOO...

TWITCH

GRR... UGH...

TWITCH

COLORED MANGA.COM

NO ONE'S EVER SEEN THROUGH THE MECHANISMS THIS FULLY BEFORE..

HOW DID HE KNOW?!

OH, I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOUR POISON- AND WEAPON-RIGGED PUPPETS...

NICE TRY... BUT YOU CHOSE THE WRONG OPPONENT...

HEH HEH...

BY THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE, I CAN TELL WHAT YOU'RE THINKING... *HOW* DID HE KNOW...?!

ELEMENTARY, BOY...YOU SEE, THE PUPPET MASTER WHO CREATED THE CROW, THE ANT, THE SALAMANTER...

!?

...IS NONE OTHER THAN I, THE ONE PULLING THEIR STRINGS!

COLORED MANGA.COM

...SASORI OF THE RED SAND?!

...YOU... YOU'RE THE ONE...

...YOU BUILT THE PUPPET CORPS...

I MUST SAY, THOUGH... THIS WAS A RATHER ENTERTAINING DIVERSION...

...FIGHTING A JUNIOR VERSION OF MYSELF WITH MY OWN HAND-ME-DOWNS.

...SO WHY RETURN NOW?!

YOU DESERTED THE SAND 20 YEARS AGO...

...THAT MY NAME IS KNOWN EVEN TO THOSE YOUR AGE.

WHAT AN HONOR...

WHAT'S THE POINT OF ASKING, WHEN YOU'RE ABOUT TO DIE?

FSSH

COLORED MANGA.COM

CHIRP
CHIRP
だんご
REACH
CRACK
!?
...I AM NOT SUPER-STITIOUS, BUT...
.....
COLORED
MANGA.COM

...I HAVE A WEIRD FEELING SOMETHING BAD'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN...

*LASH

*TWITCH

*BAM!

!

COLORED BY MANGA.COM

*THUD

*WHIP

JERK

RIP

KASHINK

*SLASH

TAP

UGH...

ALMOST.

COLORED
MANGA.COM

SHF*

TWITCH

*SLAM

*WHOOOOSH

WE BOTH KNOW HOW THIS IS GOING TO END...

IT'S POINTLESS TO STRUGGLE.

YOU HAVE TWO, MAYBE THREE DAYS. I DON'T HAVE TO FINISH YOU NOW.

SHF

THE POISON'S SPREAD-ING.

COLORED MANGA.COM

GAARA...

THERE HE IS! OVER THERE!!

HE'S UNCONSCIOUS! AND HIS PUPPETS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED, TOO!

GAH...

WELL, THEN!

WE'RE OFF!

*WHOOSH

TUG

I'LL RETURN, LADY TSUNADE!!

*OOSH

COLORED BY MANGA.COM

.....

.....

I HOPE SO.

THANK YOU!

GOOD LUCK!

!

TUMP

COLORED
NARUTOANGA.COM

NARUTO, YA HEADING OUT ON A MISSION?

HEY!

*STOMP

ズ ズ!

THE KAZEKAGE'S BEEN...

I KNOW.

OH, BUT BEFORE THAT...

BAD NEWS, TSUNADE.

*THUMP

YUP!

FSST*

KNOWING NARUTO'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE AKATSUKI...

IS THAT WISE...?

WHISPER

WHISPER

DOINK

FWHP

FWHP

I'M ABOUT TO SEND THESE THREE TO THE SAND.

COLORED
MANGA.COM

*TMP

.....

DON'T PUSH IT IF IT COMES TO A FIGHT AGAINST THE AKATSUKI, YOU HEAR ME...?

EH?

NARUTO, C'MERE.

SHUP

*CRUNCH CRUNCH

.....

SO I'M GONNA MEET THEM ON *MY* TERMS!

HEY, THEY'RE THE ONES WHO'VE GOT BUSINESS WITH ME...

*GNASH

I THINK YOU KNOW THIS ALREADY, BUT...

NARUTO, LOOK...

...BUT IF YOU LOSE YOUR COOL, YOU'LL JUST DIG YOUR OWN GRAVE.

YOU *ARE* STRONGER THAN BEFORE, THAT'S TRUE...

YOUR QUICK TEMPER'S STILL YOUR ACHILLES' HEEL.

油

COLORED MANGA.COM

油

...JUST DON'T USE *THAT* JUTSU...

I KNOW...

.....

DON'T WORRY...

I'M COUNTING ON YOU...!

KAKASHI... KEEP AN EYE ON HIM. DON'T LET HIM GO TOO CRAZY.

STOMP STOMP

COLORED MANGA.COM

WELL, THEN.

...HOO BOY...

H...HEY! WAIT UP!

KAKASHI-SENSEI! SAKURA-CHAN! LET'S GO ALREADY!!

*KLIP *KLIP

*SHOOF

WORRIED ...?

.....

...NEITHER HE NOR SAKURA...

THEY'RE NO LONGER WEAK LITTLE SHINOBI...

NAH... NOT ANYMORE ...

COLORED BY NARUTOMANGA.COM

……

……

GROWING UP...

...SURE IS A *MYSTERIOUS* THING.

FIRST GAARA...

...AND NOW KANKURO?

BUT WE'VE GOT TO HURRY...

...HE'S GOT TWO, MAYBE THREE DAYS... TOPS.

HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DEVELOP AN ANTIDOTE...

...FOR A POISON WE'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN BEFORE?

COLORED MANGA.COM

UGH... UH...

...IN THAT CASE...

...OUR ONLY CHOICE IS TO CONSULT THE OLD ONES...

UNH.....

(nn)

COLORED MANGA.COM

*SHWOOSH

*SHWOOSH

TEMARI!

!

!?

COLORED
MANGA.COM

A TEMPORARY SETBACK, I ASSURE YOU.

WE'VE SECURED YOUR ASSIGNMENT, ONE-TAIL, AFTER ALL.

WELL, THAT TOOK LONGER THAN I EXPECTED ...

ド" ド"...

*DREDGE-DREDGE...

*FWH-OOO

WOULD CERTAINLY SAVE US THE TROUBLE...

I WISH IT WOULD JUST COME TO US.

BY THE WAY, WHAT KIND OF JINCHUURIKI HOST IS YOURS, SASORI?

ヒュウ

ウウ

NOW ALL THAT'S LEFT IS *MY* ASSIGNMENT...

...BUT SINCE WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE IT IS YET...

AS LONG AS WE CATCH ONE, THEY CAN'T COMPLAIN... *WHICHEVER* ONE IT IS...

WHO KNOWS... AND WHO CARES?

COLORED MANGA.COM

ナンバー

252：

想い、駆ける…!!

252: FEELINGS RUN WILD..!!

COLORED
MANGA.COM

GAARA?!

WHAT?!

CRACK

.....

RIGHT! LET'S GO!

*GRIND

...IT'S GOING TO TAKE THREE DAYS TO GET TO THE SAND ...

...WE'D BETTER HURRY.

...I KNEW SOME-THING FELT WRONG...

COLORED MANGA.COM

*SHOOF

.....

...TO TAKE NARUTO WITH US IS THE SUPREME ORDER GIVEN UNTO US BY THE AKATSUKI.

IT'S NOT YOU THEY WANT. IT'S WHAT'S INSIDE YOU.

THEY MIGHT BE THINKING OF PLACING ITS POWER UNDER THEIR CONTROL. WHILE THE NINE-TAILED FOX SPIRIT IS STILL SEALED INSIDE YOU...

COLORED
NARUTOMANGA.COM

*SLAM

*SQUINCH

*VOOSH

NARUTO.. NO MATTER HOW MUCH OF A RUSH WE'RE IN...

...WE CAN'T BREAK FORMATION.

CALM DOWN...

...DIDN'T LORD JIRAIYA JUST LECTURE YOU ABOUT YOUR TEMPER?

!

.....!

!

.....

I HATE THIS!

.....

COLORED MANGA.COM

!?

.....

.....!

...NOW YOU KNOW, TOO, DON'T YOU...?

SAKURA...

I KNOW *WHY* THOSE GUYS WANT GAARA AND ME...!

I DON'T LIKE IT...!

...THE NINE-TAILED FOX SPIRIT SEALED INSIDE ME...

.....

.....

.....

!?

COLORED MANGA.COM

BOTH GAARA AND ME...

...WE'RE CARRYING MONSTERS INSIDE OUR BODIES...

...AND THAT'S WHAT THEY WANT! OUR MONSTERS!

THEY ONLY SEE US AS MONSTERS!

I DON'T LIKE THE WAY THEY LOOK AT US!

IT'S AWFUL..!

.....!

COLORED MANGA.COM

...HAD THE SAME KIND OF LONELY LIFE...

GAARA AND I...

I WAS BORN A MONSTER!

A MONSTER, EH...? ACTUALLY... I'VE GOT ONE OF THOSE TOO.

.....

BUT IT WAS EVEN WORSE FOR HIM...

...'CUZ HE SUFFERED AND FOUGHT ALONE A LOT LONGER...!

SO...FOR WHAT PURPOSE DO I EXIST? WHY AM I ALIVE? AT FIRST, WHEN I ASKED MYSELF THAT, I HAD NO ANSWER.

TO THEM, I AM NOW A RELIC OF THE PAST THAT THEY WISH TO ERASE AND FORGET.

.....

COLORED NARUTOMANGA.COM

OTHERWISE... I MIGHT AS WELL BE DEAD.
BUT WHILE I CONTINUE TO LIVE, I NEED A REASON.

YOU WANNA KNOW WHY I CAN'T CALM DOWN...?

IT'S NOT FAIR!

WHY SHOULD HIS LIFE BE SO FULL OF MISERY ALL THE TIME?! WHY IS IT ALWAYS HIM?!!

...JUST LIKE THEY TARGETED ME...!

...SO NOW THE AKATSUKI HAS TARGETED HIM...

I HAVE TO BE THERE FOR HIM! I HAVE TO SAVE HIM!

WHATEVER HAPPENS WHEN WE GET TO THE SAND...

..I CAN'T JUST STAND BACK AND DO NOTHING!

...THAT'S WHY!

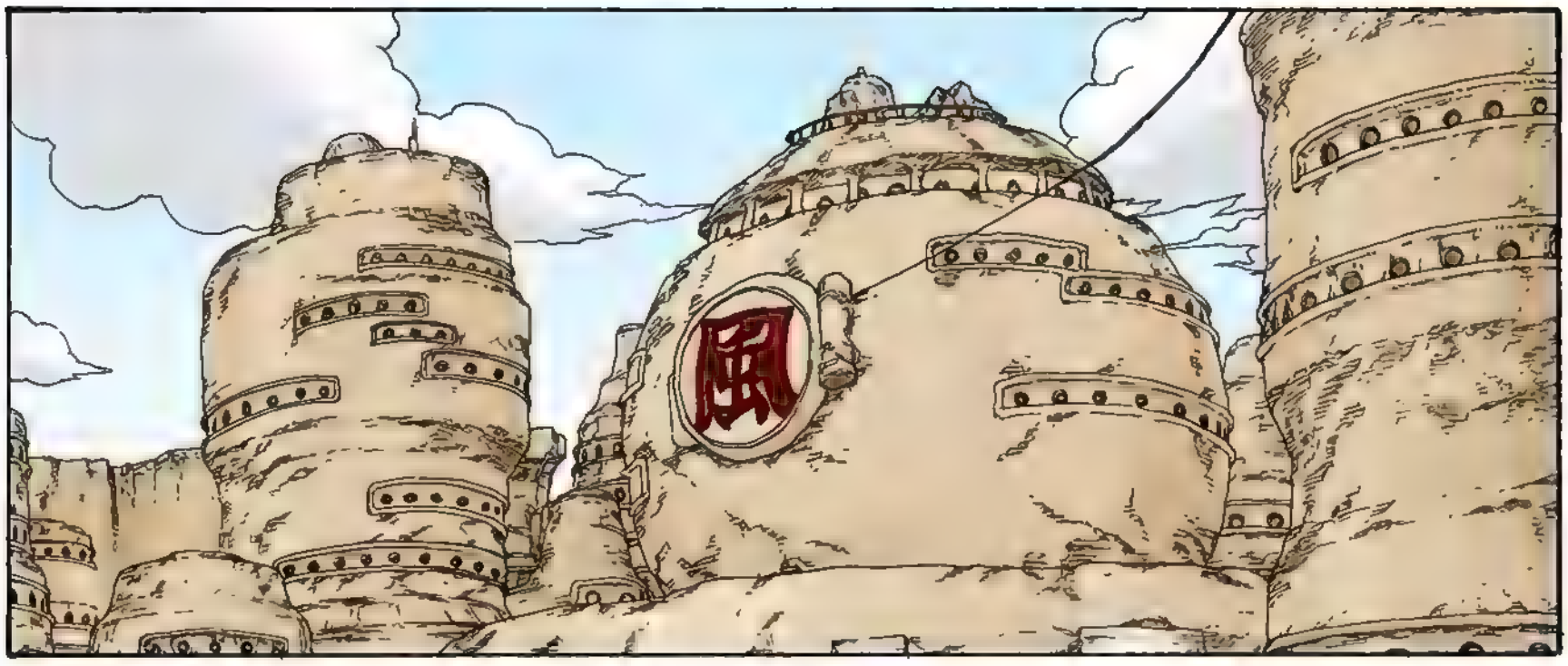
UZUMAKI NARUTO...

.....

.....

COLORED MANGA.COM

...THANK YOU...



COLORED MANGA.COM

...IT WAS HIM...

UNH...

!

*HUNH

.....

...KANKURO...!

!

FLOP

FLOP

FHUP

.....

!

!

COLORED
NARUTOMANGA.COM

HEY, SIS...!

SIS...

*SPLISH

YOU DEAD...?

COLORED MANGA.COM

TEE HEE HEE!

JUST KIDDING, PLAYING POSSUM!

*CRUNCH

CUT IT OUT, SIS...THAT WAS WAY TOO REAL.

.....

*SPLISH

HONORED OLD ONES...

...I COME PLEADING FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE.

COLORED BY MANGA.COM

AN ORGANIZATION CALLED THE AKATSUKI HAS TAKEN SHUKAKU HOSTAGE...

IF WE LET THEM GET AWAY WITH THIS, TERRIBLE THINGS ARE BOUND TO HAPPEN.

...LIKE ANCIENT TEXTS, WE TWO OUGHT TO BE BUNDLED TOGETHER AND LEFT TO COLLECT DUST ON SOME HIGH SHELF...

WHAT CAN THE LIKES OF US POSSIBLY DO, HERE AND NOW...?

YOU BOTH MAINTAIN POWERFUL CHANNELS IN EACH SHINOBI VILLAGE...

...POSSESS SPECIAL ROUTES IN AND OUT OF EVEN NON-ALLIED LANDS...

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO GATHER ALL THAT INTELLIGENCE ON OUR OWN SO QUICKLY...

YOU ALL TAKE CARE OF IT.

...THIS IS YOUR GENERATION'S PROBLEM.

WELL THEN, THAT'S PERFECT.

YOU KNOW, WE BOTH RETIRED A LONG TIME AGO.

BUT I'VE NO EARTHLY AMBITIONS LEFT.

IF ANYTHING, PERHAPS I'D LIKE TO SEE MY SWEET GRANDCHILD'S FACE ONE MORE TIME, BUT THAT'S ABOUT IT...

COLORED MANGA.COM

FOR YOUR GRANDSON JUST HAPPENS TO BE ONE OF THE AKATSUKI.

*SWOOSH *SWOOSH *SWOOSH

NARUTO...

!

.....

YOU MET HIM ONCE, DIDN'T YOU...

?

COLORED
NARUTOMANGA.COM

UCHIHA ITACHI...

...AND HE'S AFTER YOU.

.....

!

YOU KNOW, I HAVEN'T BEEN JUST TRAINING THESE PAST TWO AND A HALF YEARS.

I SECRETLY READ LADY TSUNADE'S REPORTS...

...AND SNUCK OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE TO SNOOP AROUND AS MUCH AS I COULD.

...BUT WHAT I DO HAVE IS DETERMINATION. I PLAN TO RESTORE MY CLAN. AND THERE'S SOMEONE I HAVE SWORN...

...TO KILL.

I HAVE TO BECOME STRONGER THAN HE IS...NOW.

ONLY I CAN KILL HIM.

COLORED MANGA.COM

……!

THE ONE THAT'S A MEMBER OF THE AKATSUKI...?

THE PERSON SASUKE KEEPS SAYING HE WANTS TO KILL...

...IS HIS OLDER BROTHER UCHIHA ITACHI, RIGHT...?

YOU CAN SEE... THINGS WITH THOSE EYES THAT ITACHI HIMSELF NEVER DREAMED OF!

YOU REALLY ARE *HIS* BROTHER, AREN'T YOU?

...THE ONLY ONE WHO'LL DO ANY ELIMINATING IS ME...!!

...STAY OUT OF THIS...

THAT'S WHY SASUKE...

...IS WITH OROCHIMARU RIGHT NOW, TRYING TO GAIN MORE POWER...

...IN THE QUEST FOR POWER!

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN, SASUKE...

COLORED MANGA.COM

AND WE ONLY HAVE ABOUT HALF A YEAR LEFT UNTIL HE CAN TRANSFER AGAIN...

BUT OROCHIMARU WANTS SASUKE'S BODY, RIGHT?

...IS THIS.

WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY...

...WAS ONCE A MEMBER OF THE AKATSUKI AS WELL...

AND OROCHI-MARU HIMSELF...

!!

SO SAKURA KNOWS ABOUT THAT, TOO...!

AND FROM THERE, CLOSER TO SASUKE.

THE CLOSER WE GET TO THE AKATSUKI, THE CLOSER WE CAN GET TO INFORMATION ABOUT OROCHIMARU.

!?

COLORED MANGA.COM

YUP!

TIME IS RUNNING OUT. WE'VE ONLY GOT HALF A YEAR LEFT TO FIND SASUKE...

*CLENCH

...NARUTO'S WORST ENEMY... AND THE ONE WHO'S TORMENTED SASUKE ALL THESE YEARS.

AFTER THAT, WE CAN GO AFTER UCHIHA ITACHI...

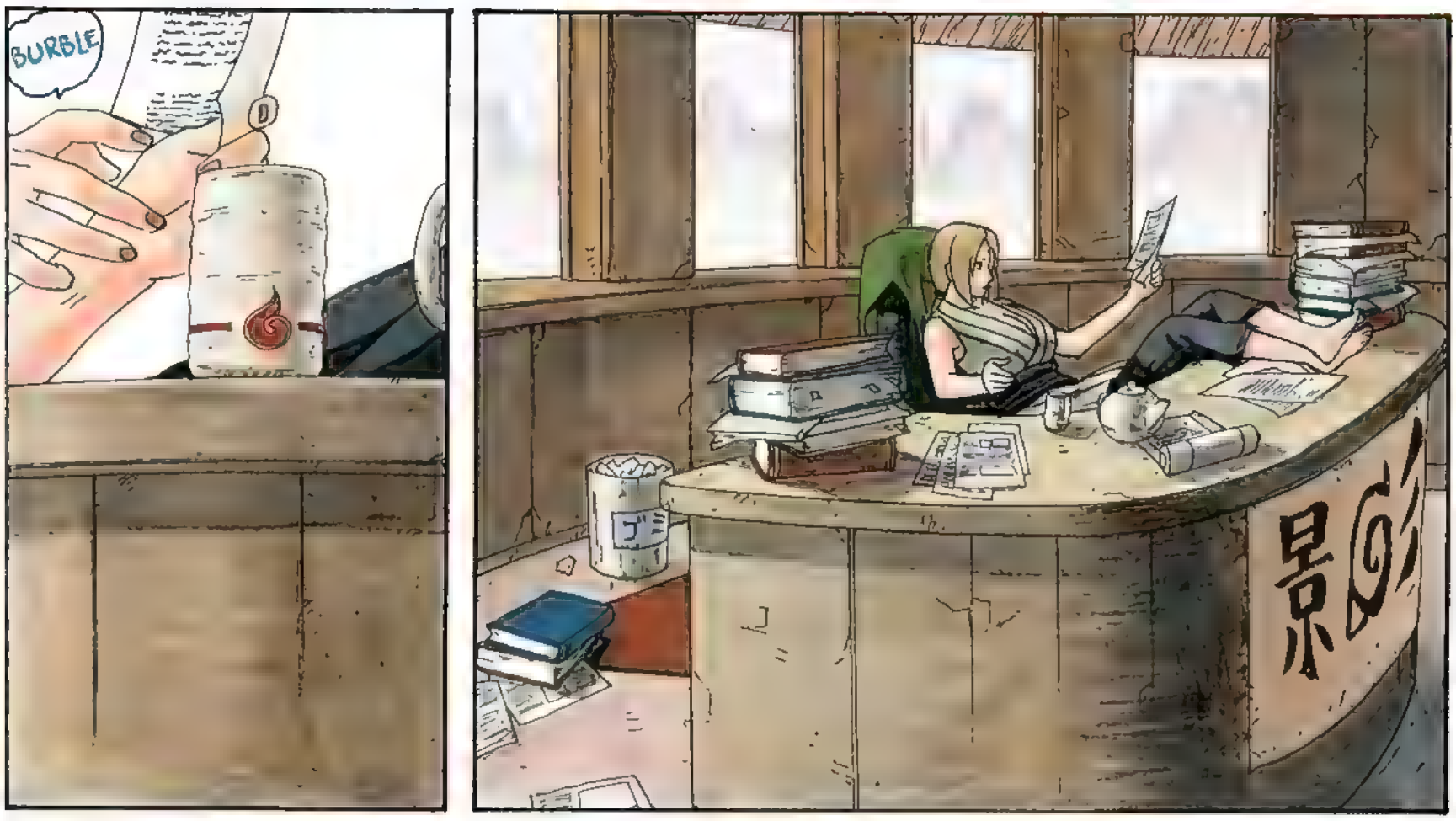
AND THIS TIME...

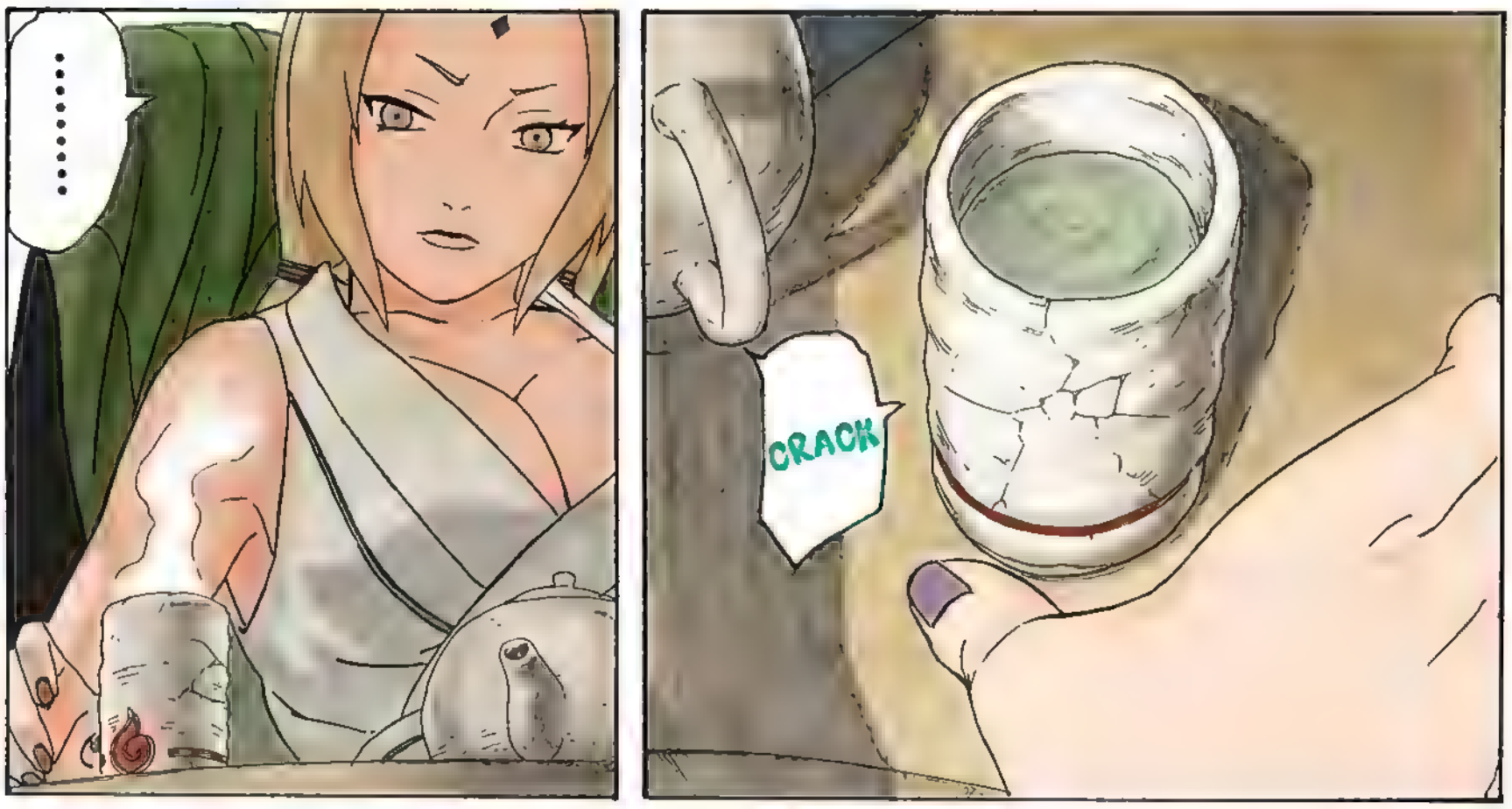
...I'LL PROTECT THEM BOTH...!!

COLORED MANGA.COM

ナンバー 253：頼れる加勢…!!

253: REINFORCEMENTS...!!





COLORED MANGA.COM

ナンバー 253：頼(たよ)れる加勢(かせい)…!!

253: REINFORCEMENTS...!!

COLORED MANGA.COM

NARUTO
-ナルト-

*CLATTER *RUSTLE *RUSTLE

ヤ"ヵニ ゲ. ゲ. ゲ.

SHUP

.....

JUST AS I FEARED ...

ジャンボ宝くじ

3組 117037 1等(2

前後賞

本日発売 ジャンジャンボ 宝くじ

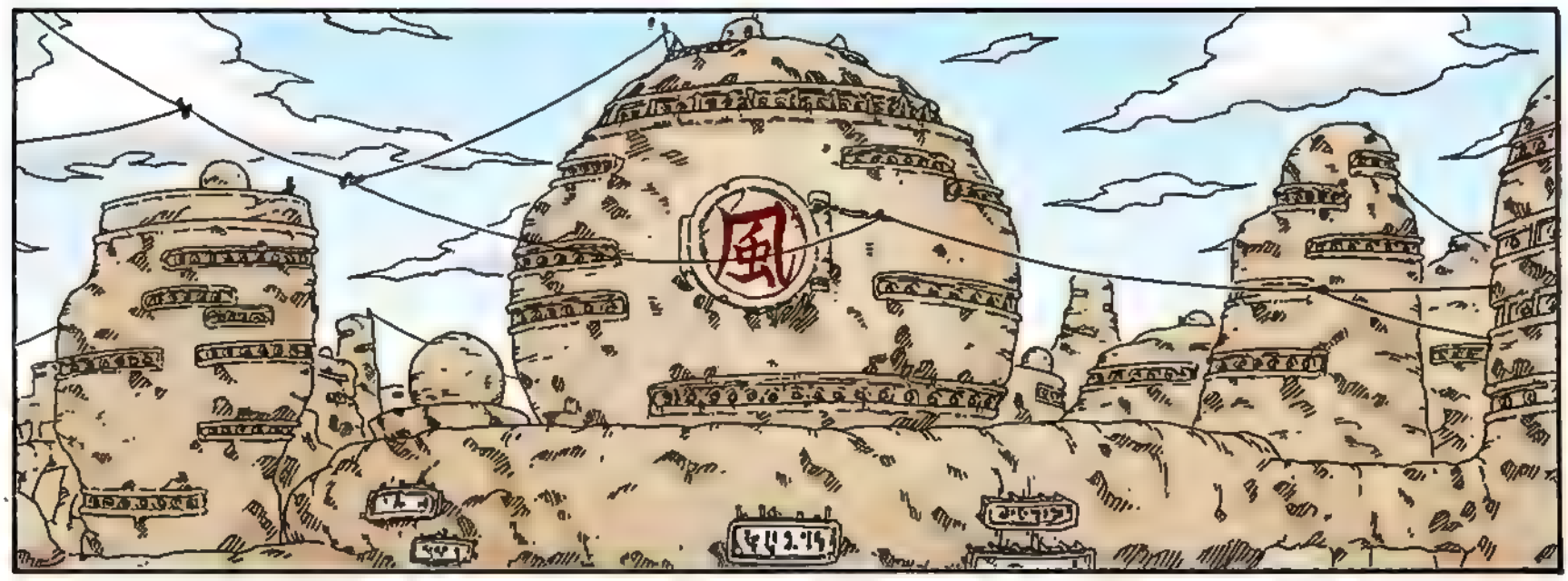
3組 117037

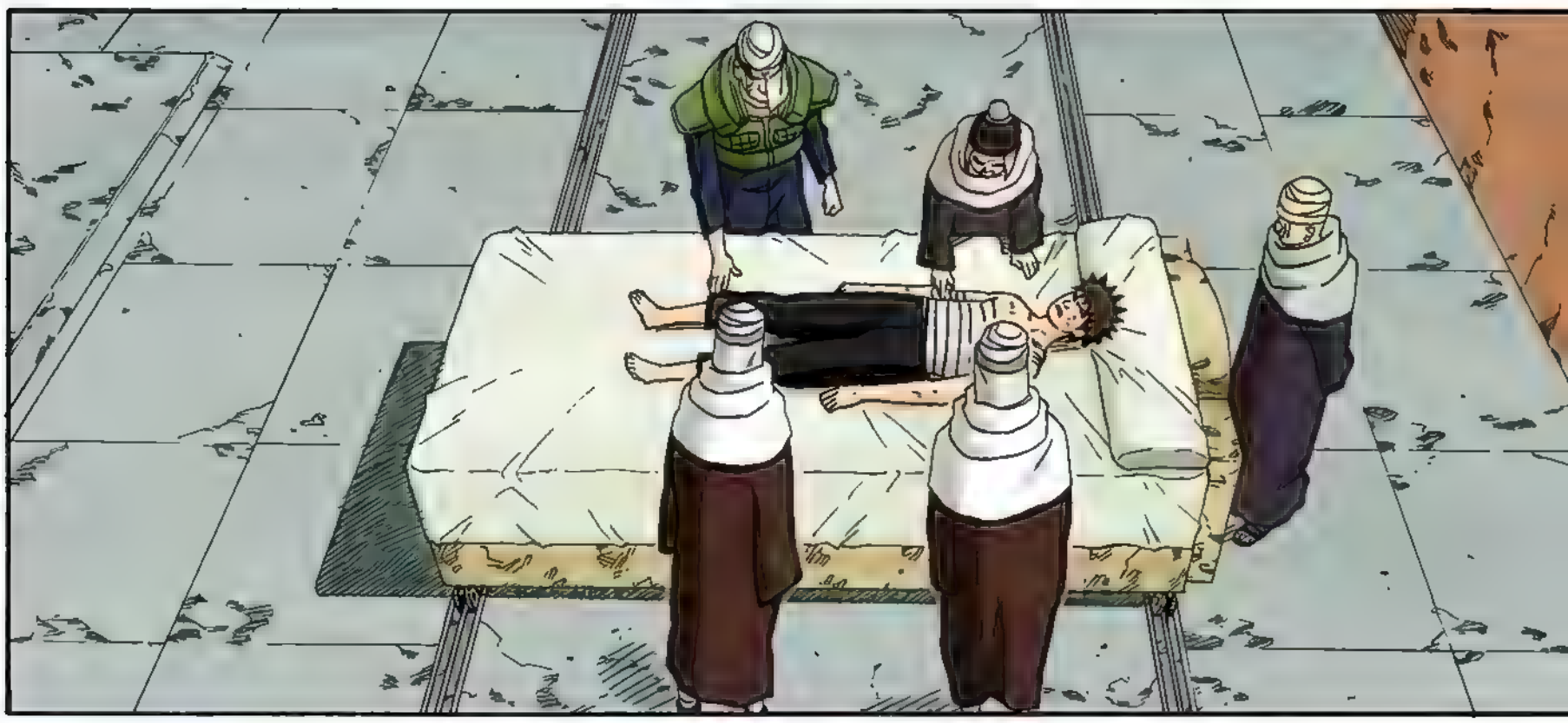
SHIZUNE! SHIZUNE! WHERE ARE YOU?!

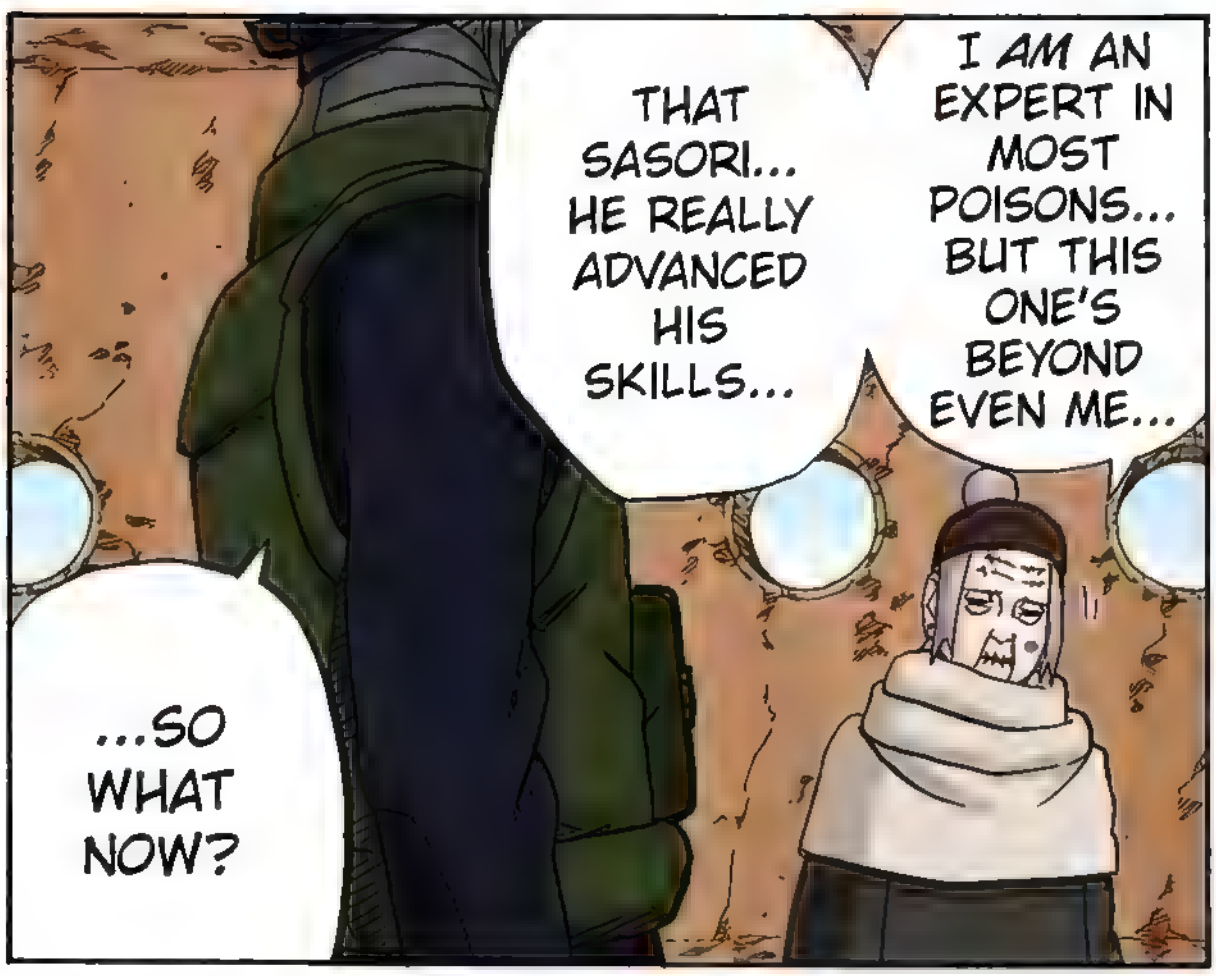
...DIRE OMENS, INDEED...

ザ

COLORED MANGA.COM







COLORED MANGA.COM

DURING THE GREAT WARS... SHE THOROUGHLY DECIPHERED ALL OF THE POISONS I HAD SYNTHESIZED...

...COMPOUNDED ANTIDOTES FOR THEM, AND MADE A FOOL OF ME.

WELL, THE ONLY ONE WHO'S MORE VERSED IN ANTIDOTES THAN I...

...IS PROBABLY THAT QUEEN OF SLUGS AND ELIXIRS, TSUNADE OF KONOHA.

EVEN IF SHE COULD COME, IT TAKES THREE DAYS TO GET TO SUNAGAKURE FROM KONOHA.

...AND BY THEN...

YES, BUT... SHE IS HERSELF HOKAGE ...

...SO I DO NOT THINK SHE CAN LEAVE HER VILLAGE SO CASUALLY.

YOU'RE ALLIES WITH KONOHA RIGHT NOW, AREN'T YOU...?

YOU BETTER SUMMON HER RIGHT AWAY AND HAVE HER TAKE A LOOK.

YOUR SILLY INTERNATIONAL TREATIES HAVE DULLED YOUR EDGE...

...AND UNDERMINED ALL THAT WAS ONCE GREAT ABOUT THIS LAND!

...HUMPH. ALWAYS RELYING ON OTHERS ...!

BESIDES, WE *HAVE* ALREADY REQUESTED KONOHA TO DISPATCH A SPECIALIST TEAM TO US.

ALL WE CAN DO NOW IS WAIT AND PRAY FOR THEIR TIMELY ARRIVAL...

COLORED
MANGA.COM

IT'S PARTLY HIS FAULT TOO, FOR LOSING HIS COOL AND OVER-EXTENDING HIMSELF...

...EVEN THOUGH HE IS A SHINOBI...

IT COULD NOT BE HELPED...

DULLED...? HOW DARE YOU...?!

WE TAKE CARE OF OUR OWN, LET OTHERS FEND FOR THEM-SELVES!

SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU TRUST AND DEPEND ON KONOHA!

YOU MUST PRIORITIZE THE ADVANCEMENT OF YOUR OWN VILLAGE'S TALENT!

.....

BESIDES...

...I *HATE* THAT SLUG LASS!

LISTEN... FRIENDLY ALLIANCES ARE FUNDAMENTALLY IMPOSSIBLE.

JUST YOU WATCH, THE MOST THEY'LL MANAGE TO SEND ARE SOME USELESS UNDERLINGS THAT ARE OUT OF FAVOR...

COLORED MANGA.COM

SNIFFLE

ACHOO!

...ARE THEY STILL NOT READY?

YES...

BUT NEVER MIND ME. I WAS THINKING OF SENDING BACK-UP TROOPS TO THE SAND, BUT...

ARE YOU ALRIGHT, LADY TSUNADE?

ACHOO!

IF YOU MEAN THEM... UM... ALMOST...

COLORED
NARUTOMANGA.COM

SNIFFLE

BUT THIS IS OUR FIRST MISSION AS OFFICIAL SHINOBI! I HOPE YOU DIDN'T CATCH COLD PEEPING!

SUPER-PERV!

WELL, I THINK I SOAKED IN THE HOT SPRINGS A LITTLE TOO LONG YESTERDAY.

EBISU-SENSEI, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.

PLEASE, RIGHT THIS WAY!

LADY TEMARI, YOU'RE HERE TOO...?

COLORED MANGA.COM

OKAY!

HUF

HUF

HUF

HUF

HUF

...THEN LORD KANKURO CHASED AFTER THEM, BUT WAS GRAVELY WOUNDED...

TROT

TROT

SO YOU SEE... FIRST, LORD KAZEKAGE WAS TAKEN...

土産屋

砂

THEY SAY HE ONLY HAS HALF A DAY LEFT...

YES, AND FURTHER-MORE, HE WAS POISONED...

...BUT WE CAN'T IDENTIFY IT FOR AN ANTIDOTE,

KANKURO, TOO?!

WHAT?!

COLORED
MANGA.COM

*GRRR

!

HURRY, TEMARI...

GAH...!

.....

.....

I'LL EXAMINE HIM!

COLORED MANGA.COM

(SIGN: TREATMENT ROOM 3)

!

!

KANKURO!!

治療室3

*CLATTER

ドド

ドド

ドド

ドド

*TOSS

*SHOOF

*ZOOM

HUH?

TH... THAT'S!

!!

THE WHITE FANG OF KONOHA !!

BOUNDED FURY MANGA.COM

*WHAP

*WHAP

THWHAP*

*WHAP

COLORED
NARUTO.COM

!?

!?

!?

!?

*BOOF

THIS OLD ONE... SHE'S GOOD!!

YOU SHIRIVELED-UP PRUNE!!

WHY ARE YOU ATTACKING MASTER KAKASHI!?!

*SCREEECH

OH! NO, WAIT! I'M NOT...!

SILENCE!!

FINALLY, TODAY... I SHALL COLLECT VENGEANCE FOR MY SON!

THAT DAY, HOW DARE YOU...!

DESPICABLE WHITE FANG OF KONOHA...!

COLORED
MANGA.COM

EH ?

!?

.....

HE LOOKS JUST LIKE HIM, BUT THAT'S NOT WHITE FANG.

!

LOOK CLOSELY, SIS...

*BLOCK

PHEW ...

.....

OH. WELL... NEVERMIND... TEE HEE HEE!

COLORED MANGA.COM

PLEASE!

NOW, CAN WE ALL JUST FOCUS ON KANKURO?

ズズズ...

*BLOOP...

*WHUSH...

GOOD!

WAFT WAFT

ズ...

COLORED MANGA.COM

PHEW...

ズズズ...

THUMP

*SCHWUMP...

I'VE REMOVED MOST OF THE POISON.

SO THERE'S NO MORE *IMMEDIATE* DANGER...

PHEW...

I STILL NEED TO NEUTRALIZE THE MINUTE QUANTITIES OF TOXINS REMAINING IN HIS SYSTEM.

...BUT WE'RE NOT COMPLETELY OUT OF THE WOODS JUST YET.

...I NEVER IMAGINED A GIRL LIKE YOU WOULD COME...

...YOU REMIND ME OF THAT SLUG LASS...

SAKURA...

...YOU'RE *AWESOME...!*

SO SOMEONE'S GOT TO RUN AND FETCH ME SOME MEDICAL SUPPLIES...

.....

COLORED MANGA.COM

.....

YES, WELL... LADY TSUNADE WAS THE ONE WHO ORDERED ME HERE.

SHE IS MY *MENTOR*, YOU KNOW!

WE GOTTA GO AFTER THE AKATSUKI NOW!

ALL RIGHT! BUT WE CAN'T REST TOO LONG!

...TIME FLOWS BY...

SIS...

UNDER-STOOD?!

JOIN THEM IN THE SAND, AND SEE THAT THEY COMPLETE THEIR ASSIGNED TASK.

...AN IDENTICAL MISSION AS TEAM KAKASHI.

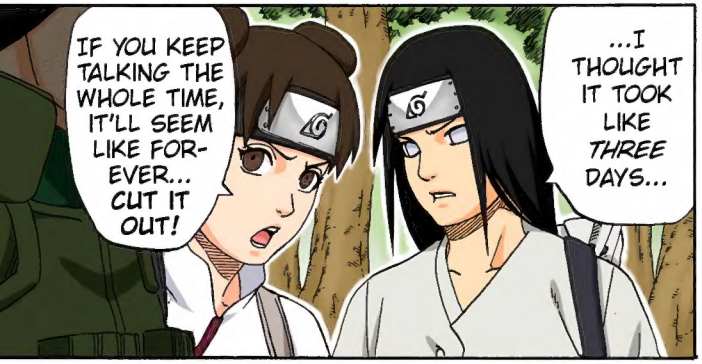
I'M GIVING YOU...

COLORED
NARUTOMANGA.COM

A...
ACHOO!!

NAH, I'M GETTING ALLERGIES... ACHOOF.
ARE YOU SICK?

NAY, MASTER! IN HALF A DAY!!
ALRIGHT, EVERYONE! WE REACH THE SAND IN A DAY!!


IF YOU KEEP TALKING THE WHOLE TIME, IT'LL SEEM LIKE FOR-EVER... CUT IT OUT!
...I THOUGHT IT TOOK LIKE THREE DAYS...

ROGER!
TA-DAA